

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING TO ENROLL THEIR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

CHARACTERISTICS OF EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION

- An early start provides for more time and more opportunities for the child to develop the language in and out of school.
- Children are naturally very enthusiastic learners and they seem to learn everything with ease including second languages.
- Younger learners are very open-minded which makes them less self-conscious and less apprehensive than older learners.

THE CHILD

- How developed is the child's first language?
- Does the child appear to be developing normally in terms of social and emotional growth?
- Does the child have positive self-esteem?
- Does the child have any perceptual or auditory problems?
- Can the child adjust easily to unfamiliar situations?

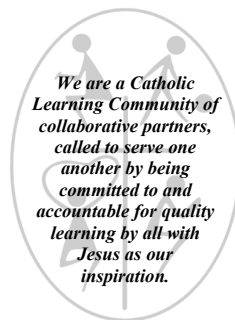
HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

Parents have a vital role in their child's learning. In order to support your child in French Immersion, the following are some suggestions:

- Be positive about the program
- Show interest in your child's daily activities
- Check newsletters for special events
- Check backpack or agenda for homework
- Communicate your concerns, questions or suggestions with teacher
- Listen to your child read in French and English
- Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain of the correct expression or pronunciation.
- Read daily to your child in English
- Provide access to French books, subscriptions, tapes, games, software, videos, television, and radio
- Purchase a French/English dictionary for home

HOW DO I APPLY?

Parents and guardians wishing to register their child in the French Immersion Program should visit the York Catholic District School Board's website at www.ycdsb.ca, click on French Immersion Icon. The website will also list details for a parent information night.



York Catholic District School Board

Elizabeth Crowe
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York Catholic District School Board



FRENCH IMMERSION (FI)



FRENCH IMMERSION (FI)

The aim of this brochure is to provide information about the French Immersion Program and to help answer questions regarding the program.

WHAT IS THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM?

The French Immersion Program will be offered in September 2012 to Grade 1 students at a yet to be determined Stouffville site.

- The program will deliver approximately 5,000 hours of instruction between Grades 1 to 8.
- Upon successful completion of the high school French Immersion Program, a student is expected to be able to communicate with ease and feel comfortable in either English or French languages and accept employment, training or further education in either language.

WHY ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

- French is one of Canada's two official languages and one of Ontario's two official languages of instruction
- Knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills.
- Ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving, as well as creative-thinking skills.
- Research shows children educated in content subjects (like science and geography) in two languages develop higher reasoning and analytical skills.
- Knowledge of French provides students with an advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.



WHO MAY ENROL IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

- Catholic senior kindergarten students residing in the Thornhill area.
- The Ministry specifies that French Immersion is open to all students, including those with English as a Second Language.
- Parents are not required to be French speaking.

Research suggests that children who are successful in French Immersion are:

- Risk takers
- Interested in learning new things
- Attend school regularly
- Positive in their attitude toward school
- Able to communicate well verbally in their first language
- Effective listeners
- Capable of good memory skills

HOW DOES FRENCH IMMERSION DIFFER FROM CORE FRENCH CURRENTLY OFFERED IN THE YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD?

Core French (Current)	French Immersion (Proposed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Instruction in <u>Primary Grades 1 to 3</u> 150 minutes per week <u>Grades 4 and 5:</u> 200 minutes per week <u>Grades 6 to 8:</u> 160 minutes per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in Grades 1 to 8 • Beginning in Grade 1 • French is the language of instruction for approximately <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 85% of the total hours of instructional time in grades 1 to 3 * 50% of the total hours of instructional times in Grade 4 to 8



WHAT WILL THE CURRICULUM LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM?

- Students will be taught the Ontario Curriculum.
- The expectations in each grade are essentially those outlined in the English-language subject curriculum documents.
- Learning resources provided in French follow the Ontario English language curriculum.
- Students will be expected to achieve the regular English language curriculum expectations before the end of Grade 8.

HOW WILL THE STUDENTS BE ASSESSED AND EVALUATED?

The assessment and evaluation of students in the French Immersion Program will be consistent with Board procedures and practices for all students.

WILL TRANSPORTATION BE PROVIDED?

Students in grades JK to 3 residing 1.2 km , and students in grades 4 to 8 residing 1.6 km beyond the school, and living within the French Immersion transportation boundary, will receive transportation. Students are required to walk a short distance to and from these centralized bus stops.

Transportation will be provided for siblings of students registered in the French Immersion program, effective September 2012. This busing privilege exists as long as one child in the family remains in the French Immersion program.

WHAT CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO SELECT STUDENTS INTO FRENCH IMMERSION?

- Catholic kindergarten students living within the Stouffville boundary, will be eligible for placement in the Grade 1 French Immersion Program.
- The remaining placements will be selected by Public lottery until all places are filled.
- The public lottery process involves the random selection of applications among those submitted.

