

Bonjour !

THE BENEFITS OF FRENCH IMMERSION

It is the hope that the French Immersion program will:

- ◆ Instill a lifelong ability to communicate with French speaking people, here in Canada and around the globe.
- ◆ Encourage an interest in and foster the ability for learning other languages.
- ◆ Enhance creativity and problem-solving ability.
- ◆ Enhance enjoyment of literature, art, music, theatre and travel.
- ◆ Increase understanding of and respect for other people and cultures.
- ◆ Provide access to a larger pool of information and to more educational and career opportunities.
- ◆ Help children to understand more about themselves, their country and their fellow Canadians.

French Immersion is offered at:

École Oceanside Elementary School (K-7)

250-248-4662 [Oceanside website](#)

École Ballenas Secondary School (8-12)

250-248-5721 [Ballenas website](#)

How much learning time is in French?

Kindergarten Phase in to 100 %
Grades 1 - 3 100%
Grades 4 - 7 80%

Grades 8 and 9
Usually five courses

Grade 10
Usually four courses

Grades 11 and 12
Two courses

In Grade 12, students
receive a 'Double Dogwood'
(bilingual graduation certificate)



Early French Immersion



Information for Parents



Qualicum School District

For more information about the French Immersion program, please contact:

Rudy Terpstra

Director of Instruction

250-954-4681

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WAYS PARENTS CAN SUPPORT

- ◆ Read stories to your child in English and/or your home language. All literacy activities will help with French literacy development too.
- ◆ Take your child to French cultural events; take advantage of opportunities for exposure to the French language and culture.
- ◆ Volunteer to help at the school, in the classroom or with concerts, fairs, special days, and field trips.
- ◆ Show your child that you are pleased with their progress.
- ◆ Speak positively about the program, the teacher, and the school. Express any questions or concerns you might have to the teacher, not to your child.
- ◆ Listen to your child read and sing at home. Ask questions about what they have read. Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain.
- ◆ Encourage your child to watch French television and listen to French music.
- ◆ Remember that each child learns at a different rate and in different ways. Try not to compare your child to anyone else.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is French Immersion?

The French Immersion program is an opportunity for non-francophone students to become bilingual in English and French. Students are immersed in French speaking environments and provided with rich cultural experiences which enable them to learn the language. This program is designed for students whose first language is not French but who wish to learn.

Is the French Immersion program different from the English program?

In both the French Immersion and English programs, students learn the same [BC Curriculum](#). In addition, students become proficient in French and have the opportunity to learn about another culture.

Do parents need to be able to speak French at home?

No, although it is helpful if parents are willing to learn at home, alongside their child. French Immersion is designed specifically for families whose first language is not French. Remember, the teachers are bilingual and can provide suggestions to help.

How will the teacher communicate with my child in the early months of French Immersion?

Your child's teacher will use visual aids, gestures, slower speech and modeling, as well as other strategies, to aid in language acquisition.

What if my child has a learning disability?

Learning support is provided in French, as it would be in English. Should a learning disability be detected, the same strategies and procedures as in English are employed in French.

What about achievement in mathematics and other subjects?

Years of research indicate that French Immersion students' achievement in other subjects is the same as that of students in the English program.

How will my child's English skills progress?

Studies have shown that by Grade 7 most French Immersion students are doing as well in English Language Arts as their peers in the English program. English reading and spelling skills may lag briefly in the early intermediate grades. Parents can help by encouraging and valuing reading in English at home.

How can I help my child with homework, when I can't speak French?

Help with concepts can be given regardless of language, and is always beneficial. It is not necessary for parents to speak French. It is helpful to provide your child with a quiet place and a regular time for doing their homework. Teachers are always willing to work with families regarding homework.

When can my child enter French Immersion?

The Qualicum School District offers an Early French Immersion Program. Students are encouraged to enter the Early French Immersion Program in Kindergarten.

Who is eligible?

Any child in the Qualicum School District may register.

Are there any additional costs?

No. French Immersion is a regular School District program.

