

Common Questions

What are the benefits of learning a second language?

- Learning a second language develops your child's listening and learning skills as well as their self-discipline
- It increases their cognitive abilities by helping them to become more flexible thinkers.
- It enhances their knowledge of and their ability to communicate in their first language.
- It makes learning a third and fourth language easier.
- It can provide opportunities for future employment or career advancement.

What about the students' academic achievements?

- Research shows there are NO detrimental effects on academic performance in any subject area despite learning in a new language.
- Students gain larger English vocabulary as French words are often similar to English words.

What will happen to my child's first language?

- The authors of "Yes You Can Help! Information and Inspiration for French Immersion parents", Pat Brehaut and Judy Gibson have concluded that the results of 30 years of studies undertaken from St. John's to Victoria are clear and consistent. Early immersion students tend to lag behind English-program students in more technical aspects of the language (punctuation and spelling) until they have a year or two of English Language Arts. However, by Grade 5 or 6 (even if this subject is not introduced until grade 4), they perform as well as their English-program peers.
- In SD83 some students perform equal to the English students and/or sometimes outperform them with respect to English language communication and reading by Grade 5 or 6.

How does Late Immersion compare with Early French Immersion?

- Late French Immersion is not a continuation of Early French Immersion. It is a separate program, offered in addition to Early Immersion, which provides an alternative final entry point for English students who want to become bilingual.
- In Grade 8, the Early and Late Immersion students join together into one program. The two groups become academically cohesive during the secondary years.



Interested in Early French Immersion?

Information Session

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 5 p.m. at Bastion

Registration Begins

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
for September 2026



French For Your Child

Registration opens for regular Kindergarten, Early French Immersion, and the South Canoe Outdoor Learning Program for 2026 on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 9 a.m.

This early date allows for more equitable access and better planning. All registrations on this date are treated as equal so there is no need for line-ups!

There will be an information session for parents on January 13, 2026, from 5-6 p.m. at Bastion Elementary School. This session will be an opportunity to learn more about the program, and to consider if this is a program you would be interested in for your child.

There are two options for registering a child:

1. Families can come to Bastion Elementary School to complete the registration paperwork. Families will need to bring the child's Birth Certificate and BC Services Card.
2. Families can phone the school (205-832-3741) to request a link for online registration.

- Immersion programs (both Early and Late) are designed for students from any catchment area in SD83.
- Parents need NOT speak French.
- Students are encouraged to stay in the program through Grade 12 in order to attain a high level of bilingualism and to receive a bilingual Dogwood Graduate Certificate.
- Students in the French Immersion program will participate in regular school activities.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To develop language skills enabling students to participate easily in French conversation.
- To provide an insight into the French culture.
- To achieve skills in all subject areas equivalent to those in the English program.
- Ability to take post-secondary education with French as the language of instruction.
- Ability to gain employment using French as the work language.

Out-of-catchment transportation to French immersion programs is the responsibility of the parents.