

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Parents have a vital role in their child's learning. Today, more than ever before, parents have access to information through books, pamphlets, speakers, workshops, the media, and the Internet on how to effectively support their child's education.

In order to support your child in French Immersion, it is important to read regularly and talk frequently in English about new experiences. Reading for pleasure should be encouraged. In this way, your child's English vocabulary will be enriched and his/her self-confidence will grow.

The following are suggestions for parents with children in the French Immersion program:

- be positive about the program and the teacher;
- show interest in your child's daily activities;
- communicate with teachers about concerns, questions or suggestions;
- listen to your child read and read daily to your child in English during the early years;
- access French books, subscriptions, games, apps, software, videos, television and radio;
- purchase a French/English dictionary for home;
- join Canadian Parents for French.



Say **OUI** to opportunity



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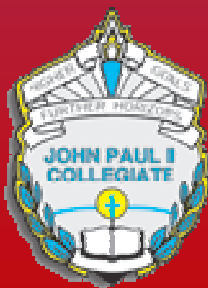
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for further information or support.



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## **French Immersion Program Information for Parents**

École Monseigneur Blaise Morand  
(Kindergarten—Grade 7)  
École John Paul II  
(Grade 8—12)

# FRENCH IMMERSION



French Immersion is a proven way of acquiring excellent French language skills.

French Immersion is specifically designed for parents who do not speak French, but want their children to speak both official languages.

French Immersion begins in Kindergarten. Students in North Battleford and area are eligible.

## BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

Research tells us that learning a second language has a valuable impact on students, in addition to developing bilingualism.

There is an intellectual impact:

students fluent in two languages score higher in verbal and non-verbal intelligence and they are superior in divergent thinking tasks.

There is a scholastic impact:

students have higher test scores in reading, language and math.

There is an impact on the first language:

second language education enhances the first language skills in reading, vocabulary, and communication.

There is an impact on citizenship:

second language learners have superior cross-cultural skills, adapt better to varying cultural contexts and display greater cultural sensitivity.

There is an economic impact:

second language learners are better equipped to compete in global markets. In this age of information where the economy depends more on knowledge and innovation, communication is key.



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[www.loccsd.ca](http://www.loccsd.ca)

## WHY FRENCH IMMERSION?

**Children of today will need to be bilingual to be successful in the global society and economy of their adulthood.** Today two languages are useful - tomorrow they will be required, and a third language will be desired.

**Childhood is the best time to develop an appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures, peoples, and perspectives in the world.**

**An optimal time to learn languages is prior to age twelve.** Research on brain development in recent decades demonstrates that our brains are wired to produce all sounds, but if we don't learn to make certain sounds, we can lose that ability.

**Children learn language by listening and repeating, and don't have any fear of a "foreign" language.** It is very natural for children to learn language. Children participate fully, understand, and quickly speak in French.

**Academic skills are actually enhanced.** Studies consistently show that immersion students do as well as or better than comparable non-immersion students in English language skills, math, science, and social studies. If you've studied another language, you know that those classes taught you much of what you know about English grammar. Increasingly, research has also demonstrated connections between math, music, and language skills.

**Children are guaranteed to be challenged.** Immersion learning takes extra effort from children (and parents) in that reading and writing skills need to be practiced in two languages.

## HOW DO I HELP WITH HOMEWORK WHEN IT'S ALL IN FRENCH?

All instruction is in French in Kindergarten to Grade Two. English Language Arts is introduced in Grade Three for 20-25% of the day. In Grade Eight to Twelve, 50-70% of courses are in French. The course options or opportunities for electives may be limited due to staff expertise and/or student enrollment.

Homework in the French Immersion program has three main purposes:

- to finish work not completed in school;
- to provide practice and extension of concepts presented in class;
- to allow for student preparation in upcoming class lessons.

Early in the school year, you should find out what the expected amount of homework will be in your child's class from his/her classroom teacher. French Immersion students should expect to have roughly the same amount of homework as their counterparts in the English program.

Teachers are sensitive to the content of the homework which is sent home. Teachers outline the expectations of homework assignments in order for the students to successfully complete them.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers which values French as an integral part of Canada and which is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French-second-language learning opportunities for young Canadians. Visit the website for more information: <http://cpf.ca/en/>