



Information About Middle French Immersion

1. What is Middle French Immersion?

Middle French Immersion is an **Optional French Program** designed for all students who are willing to make a long-term commitment to the program. A Middle French Immersion Program begins in Grade 4 or 5 and ordinarily lasts until Grade 12. From Grades 4 or 5, the language of instruction is French, except for Physical Education and Music which are usually taught in English. At the *junior high level*, Social Studies, Math, Science and Personal Development and Relationships instruction are in French. Language Arts instruction is in both French (20 percent of learning time) and English (10 percent). At the *senior high level*, French Immersion students must successfully complete at least nine courses in French over three years to receive a French Immersion Certificate.

Although the Middle French Immersion Program begins in Grade 4 or 5, with the intent of continuing until Grade 12, if any Middle French Immersion class dips below 15 students, and a combined class is not possible, the class may be discontinued. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be informed in advance if this appears necessary. At the senior high level, course offerings in French will also depend on student enrolment. The number of courses or subjects offered will depend upon the availability of qualified teaching staff.

2. How is the regular Core French Program different from a Middle French Immersion Program?

Core French is the compulsory French course offered to students in the English Program, beginning in Grade 4. Students in Grades 4 to 9 are required to take Core French for approximately 10 percent of their total learning time. Senior high students, who choose to take Core French as an elective learn French for 12.5 percent of instructional time.

3. Do Middle French Immersion students learn as much as students in classes taught in English?

Yes. Students are learning the curriculum provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It offers an alternate approach to teaching and learning through the use of French as a second language, beginning in Grade 4 or 5.

Research shows that, over time, French Immersion students usually perform as well or better than other students on standardized assessments. Research has also shown that students experience a level of success that is similar to what they would achieve if they were learning in English.

4. Will students become bilingual?

Research shows that there are a number of factors which influence language acquisition. Since students will spend most of their time learning in French, most should become functionally bilingual, and some may become fluently bilingual if they remain in French Immersion until high

school graduation. Students learn at different rates depending on their aptitude, work habits and motivation; therefore, individual results will vary.

5. Are students at a disadvantage if French is not spoken at home?

French Immersion Programs are designed for children whose first language is not French. Parents can support their children by encouraging them to do their best and by working collaboratively with the teacher and the school.

6. What happens if a student wants to leave the Middle French Immersion Program?

In such a case, parent(s)/guardian(s) should share their concerns with the school. The Teacher Support Team and Student Planning Team, in collaboration with French Programs Team and parents, will explore ways in which to best support the student in French Immersion. All available means of supporting the student within the French Immersion Program will be offered. A meeting with a French Programs Consultant, parent(s)/guardian(s) and school staff is required prior to any decision about student placement being made. Please note that changes to programming do not occur during the months of July and August.

7. What support services are available to children in Middle French Immersion?

Students in Middle French Immersion are eligible to receive the support offered at their school, however, some of these supports may only be offered in English. Students in the Middle French Program are eligible to receive the support offered at their school, (Learning Support, Teacher, School Psychologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Literacy and Mathematics Intervention) however, some of these supports may only be available in English.

8. Where will Middle French Immersion be offered?

Provided that there is sufficient interest, the program will be offered at: **Redcliff Middle School, Grade 5 and West Pictou Consolidated, Grade 4.**

9. May students apply who do not attend the school offering the program?

Yes. Children who are entering Grade 4 or 5 at any school may apply. Each school has a certain number of places in one of the Middle French Immersion classes, based on September 30, 2023 Grades 3 or 4 enrollments.

10. How do students from other school's travel to the school offering the program?

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are responsible for transportation if the student is not already attending the school where the Middle French Immersion Program is being offered.

11. How will students be selected?

Middle French Immersion is an optional French Program designed for all students. All students and parent(s)/guardian(s) who are willing to make a long-term commitment to the program may apply. If there are more applications than there are places, public draws will be held. If necessary, a waiting list will be established. Minimum enrolment to start a class in Middle French Immersion will be 20, to a maximum of 27.

Parents should not expect confirmation prior to the completion of staffing, which is usually in April and after the announcement of the 2024-2025 budget.

If you have additional questions, please contact one of the Regional French Consultants.

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