



Information About Late French Immersion

1. What is Late French Immersion?

Late French Immersion is a **Regional, Optional French Program** designed for all students who are willing to make a long-term commitment to the program. The Late French Immersion Program begins in Grade 7 and ordinarily lasts until Grade 12. The language of instruction is French except for Physical Education, Music, Tech Ed and Family Studies which are usually taught in English. Students spend from 70-75 percent of their time learning in French. Language Arts instruction is in both French (20 percent of learning time) and English (10 percent). At the senior high level, immersion students must successfully complete 9 immersion courses (38 to 43 percent of learning time) in order to earn a French Immersion Certificate.

Although the Late French Immersion Program begins in Grade 7 with the intent of continuing until Grade 12, if any Late 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. Where is the Late French Immersion Program being offered?

The program will be offered at Redcliff Middle School in Bible Hill, as long as numbers warrant. The program continues at Bible Hill Junior High School (Grades 8 and 9) and Cobequid Educational Centre (Grades 10-12).

3. How are the regular Core French and Integrated French Programs different from a Late French Immersion Program?

Students in Grades 7-9 Core French receive French instruction for at least 10 percent of their total learning time. Senior high students, who choose to take French, learn Core French for about 12.5 percent of instructional time.

Presently, the Integrated French Program is offered to students from Grades 7-12 in certain schools. Students who choose Integrated French, take a French Language Arts course and another course in French (usually Social Studies) for a total of 25-30 percent of instructional time.

4. Do Late French Immersion students learn as much as students in classes taught in English?

Yes. Students are learning 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 7.

Research shows that, over time, Late French Immersion students 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 their learning was in English.

5. Do students become bilingual?

Research shows that there are a number of factors which influence language acquisition. Since students will spend much 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.

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

French Immersion Programs are designed for students 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.

7. What happens if a student wants to leave the Late 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, with collaboration with the French Programs Team and parent(s)/guardian(s), 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.

8. What support services will be available to students in Late French Immersion

Students in the Late French Immersion 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.

9. How will students be selected?

Late 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 Late French Immersion will be 20, to a maximum of 30.

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.

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

Yes. Any student entering Grade 7 at any school may apply.

11. 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 that is offering the program.

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

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