

**DISTRICT PRACTICE:**

**1. CORE FRENCH (FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)**

In the Core program, French is offered as a required subject grade 5 through grade 8. Core French is then offered as a Ministry of Education elective through grade 12. Fluency or bilingualism are not goals of this program; however, students learn to communicate within the range of common everyday French vocabulary.

As students progress through the educational program, the study of French should enable students for:

**Thinking and Communicating**

- (a) Comprehend key information in slow, clear speech, and other simple texts.
- (b) Comprehend simple stories.
- (c) Interpret non-verbal cues to increase comprehension.
- (d) Use various strategies to support communication.
- (e) Seek clarification of meaning.
- (f) Recognize the relationships between intonation and meaning.
- (g) Respond to simple commands and instructions.
- (h) Participate, with support, in simple interactions involving everyday situations.
- (i) Express themselves and comprehend others through various modes of presentation.

**Personal and Social Awareness**

- (a) Identify Francophone communities across Canada.
- (b) Demonstrate awareness of connections between First Peoples communities and the French language.
- (c) Identify a Francophone cultural festival or celebration in Canadian culture, particularly as experienced in Canada.



## DISTRICT PRACTICE 8800

### FRENCH PROGRAMMING

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#### 2. FRENCH IMMERSION

In the immersion program, French is taught not only as a subject but also is used as the language of instruction in other subjects. The aim of the program is to enable students to acquire fluency in French, and should a student continue in the program, to graduate with a Dual Dogwood Diploma. Immersion, beginning in the 4th grade of an educational program and continuing through to the graduate program, can be expected to provide students with functional bilingualism by the time they graduate.

The French immersion program enrolls a maximum of 28 students and opens on February 1 each year. If registration exceeds 28 students by February 28, a lottery will be held. Once a cohort of 28 has been filled, entrance into the program in subsequent years can only be permitted if space is available and only if the student transferred in from another French immersion program.

All students registered in French immersion will participate in fall and spring School District assessments in English language.

**Note:** It is important to understand that the program will only operate if there is sufficient enrollment. The Board has determined that the minimum enrollment be set at 25. If less than 25 students register, the program will be assessed by the Superintendent in consultation with the Zone Trustees.

**Registration:** Siblings of students already enrolled in the program, currently or graduated, will not be included in the lottery but will have space in the program if a registration form is received by the deadline (a sibling is defined as one of two or more individuals having one common parent, or for whom parents have legal guardianship).

#### 3. INTENSIVE FRENCH

Intensive French (IF) is a second language teaching approach in which French is taught intensively for most of the day for five months during grade 6. The students in the first year of the program receive 80% of their instruction in French in the first half of the year. During the second half of the first year, grade 6 students in the program receive their subject area instruction in English. During the second year in the program, students receive about 5 hours of French instruction each week with their core subject instruction in English.

All students registered in intensive French will participate in fall and spring School District and provincial assessments in English language.



## DISTRICT PRACTICE 8800

### FRENCH PROGRAMMING

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#### **Program entry at grade 6:**

The following procedures are used for registration for intensive French programs:

- (a) A letter will be sent to all parents of grade 5 students within the zone in February of each school year explaining the program and the registration procedures.
- (b) There will be a deadline set for registration to the program. If more than 28 registrations for the program are received by the deadline, a lottery will be held to determine the students who will participate in the program. If this occurs, a waiting list for the program will be formed, according to the order in which the names were drawn after the class limit of 28 had been reached in the lottery.
- (c) In Windermere zone, each school will have a quota of seats out of the available 28 according to the number of students in grade 5 in the zone. A lottery will occur in each school for the allotted seats. Unused spaces from all schools are to be filled by a second lottery if necessary.
- (d) Late registrations will be placed on the wait list in the order that they are received.
- (e) Schools are required to inform parents of the opportunity to stay on the waiting list. However, in consideration of language acquisition challenges and student learning needs, entry into the program is closed after September 30 in each school year.

#### **Program entry after grade 6:**

Entrance into the second year of the program is only considered if the student has previous experience in French immersion or intensive French acquired in another school district and there is available space.

#### **Program Exit:**

The organization of teaching and learning in intensive French classrooms is designed to accommodate the diversity of student learning needs. Sometimes, however, students and parents wish to leave the program.

The process for exiting the program will be managed by the principal, and will involve consultation with the parents/guardians, the classroom teacher, and other appropriate school and School District personnel including but not limited to the school-based team.

#### **Graduation:**

Students who complete a French Program, graduate with a Dogwood Certificate. Dual Dogwood Certificates are only awarded to students graduating from a French immersion program.