



DIVISION SCOLAIRE

LOUIS RIEL

SCHOOL DIVISION

Middle & Late Immersion Programs



French Immersion

French Immersion is an officially recognized program of studies in the Manitoba public school system.

The goals of French Immersion are to help young people proudly interact in French independently and spontaneously, and to see themselves as part of the Francophone community. Additionally, French Immersion empowers young people to engage as Canadian citizens in both official languages, thereby increasing their access to other languages and cultures.

Essential graduation requirements are the same as the English program.

It is an opportunity to learn and appreciate the French language and culture.

Similarly to the English program, children in the French Immersion program acquire “academic, social, and career skills; and the life management skills that future citizens will need to develop their individual potential.”

Bilingualism is a door to the future that creates opportunities for travel, study, and career choice.

More than 482,000 (2021) young Canadians are learning a second language in a French Immersion school.

LRSD Immersion

Early Immersion begins in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and is characterized by full-day French instruction until Grade 2, when French Immersion Schools introduce English Language Arts.

Middle Immersion is a second entry point for French Immersion in Grade 4. This program offers full-day French instruction in the classroom for Grade 4 and English is re-introduced in Grade 5. In Grade 7, Middle Immersion students unite with French Immersion students in their catchment school to continue their studies to the end of secondary school.



New Entry Point

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, LRSD will be introducing the Late French Immersion program at École Van Belleghem. This enriching program is designed for students ready to embark on a bilingual journey as they complete their middle school years. Late Immersion is a third entry point for French Immersion in Grade 6. After studying together for three years, students will integrate with students from the Early and Middle Immersion programs as they enter Grade 9.

What are the Middle & Late French Immersion programs?

Middle French Immersion starts in Grade 4, while Late French Immersion begins in Grade 6, following several years of instruction primarily in English. Students in these programs receive intensive French instruction for the full day. Students learn all subjects in French except for English Language Arts.

Who can enrol in the Middle & Late French Immersion programs?

Students who are transitioning into Grade 4 or Grade 6, and who are not already in French Immersion, are eligible for enrolment in the Middle and Late French Immersion programs.

How does participation in a French Immersion program affect general intellectual or cognitive growth?

A number of well-controlled studies suggest that becoming bilingual enhances cognitive and linguistic growth.

What skills can a student demonstrate after successfully completing the Middle or Late French Immersion program?

A student who successfully completes the Middle or Late French Immersion program should communicate with ease in either language community and be well equipped for employment, training or further education in either language.

What effect does the Middle or Late French Immersion program have on children's basic skills in English Language Arts?

Decades of research confirm that French Immersion has no negative effect on the development of English language skills as measured by standardized tests. In fact, studies have proven that French Immersion education enhances students' English language skills.

"Learning French was the best decision I have ever made! It gives you more opportunities in life."

- Noah, Grade 9 Student

Frequently Asked Questions About Learning French

Do parents of students in the French Immersion program have to know or speak French?

No, it's not necessary for you to know French, but be prepared to enjoy learning it from your child.

What can I do to help my child if I don't know or speak French?

You can support your child by listening to them read in French or by watching French programs on television together. You can also encourage your child to learn in French by talking about its value — an important message.

Will the teacher speak French all the time?

Yes. The teacher will use English for a very brief time at the beginning of the Middle & Late Immersion Program, but will speak French for the majority of the time.

What happens if my child cannot keep up with French language instruction?

All students learn and develop skills differently. The teacher will use many learning strategies to ensure that all students are supported as they learn French.

Will my child have homework?

Yes, although much of the activity in the classroom is oral, homework generally consists of completing written work already begun in class, reading books, listening to appropriate TV or radio programs, and organizing or collecting materials for projects.

Will my child receive school bus transportation to the Middle or Late French Immersion program?

Transportation is provided to students who must walk more than 1.6 kilometers to attend the Middle or Late Immersion School.

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The Middle Immersion program is phenomenal! Our daughter has gone from limited French to full conversations. She loves teaching us French words and is excited to learn. There are excellent teachers who engage the students and make learning fun!

- Dave and Lori, Parents

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Contact Us

If you have any other questions or need additional information, please contact the Principal at one of the French Immersion schools offering the Middle or Late Immersion Program or visit our website at

www.lrsd.net



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