



# Late French Immersion Program

## *Leslie Thomas Junior High*

Parent Information Meeting  
February 7, 2024



**Halifax**

Regional Centre for Education



# Goals

- To provide information about the Late French Immersion program
- To discuss the benefits of learning French as an additional language
- To answer questions





# French Immersion is Inclusive

The French Immersion program is open to *all students* regardless of their first language or their academic history.





# What is Late French Immersion?

Late French Immersion is a program designed for students whose first language is not French.

Instructional strategies and materials are designed with this in mind.

Late French Immersion begins in Grade 7 and continues to Grade 12.





# French Immersion in Nova Scotia

- The Early French Immersion Program (Grade P-12) began in 1977.
- The Late Immersion Program (Grade 7-12) began in 1985.
- HRCE has 20 schools offering Late French Immersion beginning at Grade 7.





# French Immersion P-12

A French Immersion Certificate is awarded at High School graduation upon completion of program requirements.

High school students must complete 50% of their courses in French to receive this certificate.





# French Immersion P-12

Graduates of the French Immersion Program:

- are expected to be able to communicate effectively in oral and written French and English.
- are expected to achieve learning outcomes of courses taught in French and in English.
- could pursue university or college education in French.





# Benefits of French Immersion

- Language concepts and skills learned and developed in French, support concepts and skills learned in their first language.
- Bilingualism / multilingualism can enhance some aspects of academic and cognitive growth (improved literacy, mental flexibility, creativity, divergent thinking, higher order thinking, expanded view of the world).

(Arnett & Bourgoin, 2017; Genesee, 2007)







## Why Learn French?

- Canada's official languages are French and English
- Strengthens problem-solving, reasoning and creative thinking skills
- Helps develop understanding and appreciation of other cultures
- Provides more opportunities in a global job market and participate in a globalized economy





# Curriculum

Late French Immersion students follow the *same* curriculum as their peers in the English program, though concepts will be explored at a different pace while students are developing language skills.





# Percentage of Instruction in French

**Grades 7-9      70-75%**

- **French Language Arts**
- **Science**
- **Social Studies**
- **Healthy Living**
- **Math**

**Grades 10-12      50%**





# How do students learn French?

Students will learn French in the same stages that they learned their first language.

**Oral → Reading → Writing**

Students are immersed in a French environment with strong teacher models. They will build their vocabulary and grammar using authentic opportunities to communicate and interact as the year progresses using an approach that will develop their language.





# Is Late FI the Right Choice for Your Child

- Does your child enjoy French?
- Is she/he interested in being immersed in the language?
- Is your child ready for a challenge?
- Does your child take the initiative?
- Is your child someone who is motivated and willing to take risks?
- You know your child the best.





# What to Expect Entering French Immersion

- We ask that students commit to the program for a minimum of one year.
- Teachers will give students the tools to help them communicate in French. Extra help is available.
- Students quickly start to acquire the language.
- It is natural for the student to sometimes feel overwhelmed especially in the first few months.
- Students will develop a sense of pride and accomplishment with their new language.





## The Role of the FSL Parent

- As parents, you need to be patient as well!  
Language learning takes place over a period of time.
- Students will learn at different rates depending on their aptitude, work habits, motivation and organization.





# Supporting students at home

- French links, LFI Teacher Google Classes
- French language television: Netflix, Prime, Disney+, TFO (French TV Ontario). Apps: Babble, Duolingo, etc
- Extracurricular and community activities which promote French language and culture. French Summer Camps through CPF.
- Reach out to your child's teacher(s)







# Useful Links

[Word reference](#)

[Canadian Parents for French](#)

[Halifax Regional Centre for Education - Late Immersion Programs](#)

[Department of Education and Early Childhood Development - How Bilingual Am I?](#)

[Intensive French - The Neurolinguistic Approach](#)





# Works Cited

Arnett, K., & Bourgoin, R. (2017). *Access for Success: Making Inclusion Work for Language Learners*. Pearson Education Canada.

Bournot-Trites, M., & Tellowitz, U. (2002, January). *Report of Current Research on the Effects of Second Language Learning on First Language Literacy Skills*. Atlantic Provinces Educational Foundation.

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