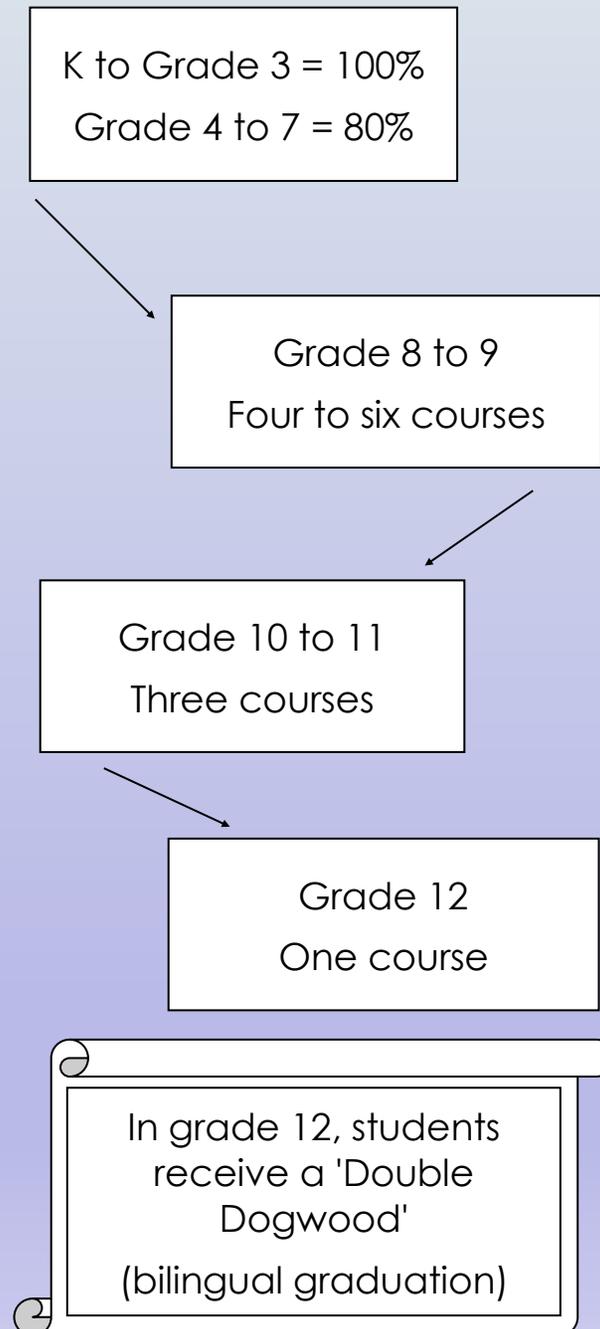


GUIDE TO BEING AN IMMERSION PARENT

- ◆ Do read stories to your child in English.
- ◆ Do take your child to French cultural events; take advantage of opportunities for exposure to French language and culture.
- ◆ Do volunteer to help at the school, in the classroom or with concerts, fairs, special days, and field trips.
- ◆ Do show your child that you are pleased with his/her progress.
- ◆ Do speak positively about the program, the teacher, and the school. Express any questions or concerns you might have to the teacher, not to your child.
- ◆ Do listen to your child read and sing at home. Ask questions about what they have read. Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain about the French.
- ◆ Do encourage your child to watch French television.
- ◆ Do remember that each child learns at different rates and in different ways. Try not to compare your child to anyone else.
- ◆ Do ask your child about his or her day. Try to be specific about an aspect of the day.

How much instruction is in French?



SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT 62



Your Child & Early French Immersion



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Sooke School District 62

3143 Jacklin Road

Victoria, BC

Telephone: 250-474-9800

Facsimile: 250-474-9825

Website: www.sd62.bc.ca

IS FRENCH IMMERSION THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR MY CHILD?

THE SUCCESSFUL STUDENT IN FRENCH IMMERSION

- ◆ Is verbal, likes to talk
- ◆ Shows strengths in first language
- ◆ Has good auditory discrimination
- ◆ Has good memory
- ◆ Is usually attentive and focused
- ◆ Readily accepts challenges
- ◆ Self-corrects their speech when a correction is given by an adult
- ◆ Imitates easily
- ◆ Experiments without fear of making mistakes

It is the hope that the French Immersion program will:

- ◆ instill a lifelong ability to communicate with French speaking people, here in Canada and around the globe
- ◆ encourage an interest and foster an ability for learning other languages
- ◆ enhance creativity and problem-solving ability
- ◆ enhance your child's enjoyment of literature, art, music, theatre and travel
- ◆ increase your child's understanding of and respect for other peoples and other cultures
- ◆ give your child access to a larger pool of information and to more educational and career opportunities
- ◆ help children to understand more about themselves, their country and their fellow Canadians

COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY PARENTS

What is French Immersion?

In immersion programs, French is not only a subject, but a language of instruction and a means of communication.

How does the French Immersion Program differ from the English Program?

The French Immersion Program parallels the English Program curriculum. In addition, students become proficient in French and have the opportunity to learn about another culture.

Do parents need to be able to speak French at home?

No, although parents should be willing to learn at home, along side their child. French Immersion is designed specifically for families whose first language is not French. Remember, the teachers are bilingual – you can ask them for help.

How will the teacher communicate with my child in the early months of French Immersion?

Your child's teacher will use visual aids, gestures, slower speech and modeling, among other things, to aid in language acquisition.

What if my child has a learning disability?

Learning assistance is provided in French, as it would be in English. Should a learning disability be detected, the same strategies and procedures as in English are employed in French.

What about achievement in mathematics and other subjects?

Years of testing indicate that an immersion student's performance in other subjects is equal to the performance of students not in immersion.

How will my child's English skills progress?

Studies have shown that by Grade 7 most immersion students are equal to their peers in English Language Arts. English reading and spelling skills may lag briefly in the early intermediate grades. Parents can help by encouraging and valuing reading in English at home.

How can I help my child with homework, when I can't speak French?

Help with concepts can be given regardless of language, and is always beneficial. It is helpful, but not necessary, for parents to speak French. Parents may want to look into language programs offered in their community. All children should have a quiet place and a regular time for doing their homework.

When can my child enter French Immersion?

The Sooke School district offers an Early and a Late French Immersion Program. Students are encouraged to enter the Early French immersion Program in Kindergarten, but a child can register no later than September 30th of the year the child enters Grade 1.

The Late French Immersion Program begins in Grade 6 at École John Stubbs only.

Who is eligible?

Any child in the Sooke School District may register.

Are there any additional costs involved?

No. French Immersion is a regular School District Program.

