

Primary French Immersion - Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary



February 2026

When considering the Early French Immersion program

Ask yourself:

- How well developed are my child's home language skills?
- How might my child respond if understanding the teacher is challenging at the onset?
- How might pre-existing learning, perceptual or auditory challenges play a role in my child's experience?
- Is my child willing to take risks?

EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION (P-12)

*At the end of High School, students receive a **French Immersion Certificate** upon completion of requirements.*

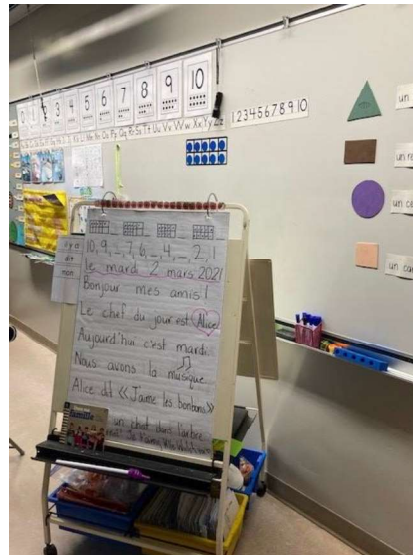
Graduates of the French Immersion Program will be able to

:

- ★ Communicate effectively in oral and written French and English;
- ★ Achieve expected learning outcomes of courses taught in French and in English;
- ★ Accept a job where French is the working language, and
- ★ Pursue university or college education in French.

Language Acquisition

Students acquire their French language skills in an environment surrounded by French posters, signs, books and other resources. The integration of subjects taught in French is also conducive to language acquisition.



How do young children learn French?

Children learn French in the same stages that they learn English. At first, they mostly listen. Initial attempts at speaking usually take the form of single words or broken phrases. For the first month, the classroom teacher speaks both English and French and transitions to mostly French around December.

By approximately mid-year, the child understands most of what the teacher says in French as a part of classroom activities. Children are usually speaking most of their French in group learning situations at this stage. They may often reply to the teachers and speak among themselves in English, with the infusion of some French.

By June students are more comfortable taking risks when using common French vocabulary and phrases.

BENEFITS OF EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION

Students have significant advantages when they speak more than one language. Learning another language helps students:

- ★ Strengthen their problem-solving, reasoning and creative thinking skills.
- ★ Develop their understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures;
- ★ Increase their competitiveness in an increasingly global job market, and
- ★ Enhance their first-language and overall literacy skills.

THE EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ENABLE ALL STUDENTS TO...

- ★ Communicate effectively in French using listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing as well as other means or representation
- ★ Work and study purposefully, both independently and in groups
- ★ Solve problems individually and collaboratively
- ★ Encourage personal development of skills, attitudes and values
- ★ Express ideas and feelings using various forms of communication
- ★ Locate, evaluate, adapt, create and share information using a wide range of sources and technologies.

ENGLISH INSTRUCTION...

- Formal English Instruction begins in Grade 3.
- English reading abilities will not develop at the same rate as P-3 students in the English Program, however, research shows that over time, immersion students do as well, if not better, than their English counterparts. (Bournot-Trites et Tellowitz, 2002)
- Research shows that second-language learning does not negatively affect the first language, that students rapidly catch up once English is introduced and, that many students surpass their peers by Grades 5 or 6, and that skills in French can and do transfer to English. (Renée Bourgoïn)

THE PRIMARY PROGRAM

Students in primary experience math, language arts, social studies, science, health, visual arts, music and physical education through the following mediums:

- ★ Creative play
- ★ Active, hands-on learning (learning zones)
- ★ Talk
- ★ Whole-group, small-group, one-on-one and independent learning
- ★ Questioning, observing, exploring, and responding

Curriculum

The French Immersion Program follows the same learning outcomes as defined by the Nova Scotia English Provincial Guides, therefore, our students in French Immersion will be learning the same curriculum outcomes as their peers in our English Program.

The Following is the Link to **EECD Education and Early Childhood Development** curriculum outcomes:

<https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/french-immersion>

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

- The P-6 curriculum is integrated. Core subject outcomes such as social studies, science, health, ICT and visual arts are integrated with language arts and mathematics

Teachers will review information on your child's literacy and math classroom practices and routines in their September Curriculum package.

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

- Students from grades primary to grade three will be eligible for Early Literacy Support in French and English.

As is the case for all students...

- The Teacher Support Team/Program Planning Team (TST/PPT) will explore supports and make decisions about the student's program.
- If a student is having difficulty meeting program expectations, Immersion students can be placed on Individual Program Plans (IPP) and Adaptations.

PARENT/GUARDIAN ROLE

- Parents/Guardians can support by providing a rich and supportive environment in their child's **first** language. Helping to develop your child's oral language will strengthen their literacy skills.
- French Immersion Programs are specifically designed for children of parents or guardians who do not speak French.
- Students will learn at different rates depending on their aptitude, work habits, motivation and organization.

Preparation and support for parents

Parents are encouraged to access the following resources:

- French section of community libraries.
- HRCE website and French links
- CPF (Canadian Parents for French)
- French language television
- Extracurricular and community activities which promote French language and culture.

Ways to Help Your Child Prepare for School

- Read with your child and talk about book
- Familiarize with book knowledge (directionality of print, reading from front to back, pictures supporting text)
- Practice writing their name and pencil grip
- Letter and sound recognition
- Practice developing fine motor skills (printing, colouring, cutting, lego, puzzles, painting)

Merci

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Your ALJ Admin Team and Primary Teachers

February 2026