

FRENCH IMMERSION AND YOUR CHILD

There will be an essential information meeting for the SD83 Late French Immersion Program (Grade 6) on **Thursday, March 11 at 6 p.m. via Teams**. This will be a virtual meeting connecting you to École intermédiaire Shuswap / Shuswap Middle School (sms.sd83.bc.ca). Please find the link to the virtual meeting posted on the SMS website (right side under Important Dates). The meeting will open at **5 p.m.** so that we can do our best to assist anyone experiencing technical difficulties.

It is important that parents and students attend this meeting.

Following the meeting, a survey link will be shared with all families in attendance. The survey will provide us with registration information and is essential for all families interested in registering for LFI.

If there are between 24 and 28 students (1 class) or between 48 to 56 (2 classes) students with their parents at the information session, all students who complete the registration survey will be automatically registered. If the numbers do not work out for either 1 or 2 classes, a process will be discussed at the meeting.

If you are not available to attend the virtual meeting, please email Megan Weir, VP of Shuswap Middle School, at mweir@sd83.bc.ca and the registration survey will be shared with you March 12.



Principals, district staff and teachers will present information about Late French Immersion and provide registration information.

- Immersion programs (both Early and Late) are designed for students from any catchment area in SD83 whose first language is other than French.

- *Parents need NOT speak French.*

- Students are encouraged to stay in the program through Grade 12 in order to attain a high degree of bilingualism and to receive a bilingual Dogwood Graduate Certificate.

- *The program is NOT operating separately from the normal functioning of the school. Students in the French Immersion program will participate in regular school activities.*



PROGRAM GOALS

- To develop language skills enabling students to participate easily in French conversation.
- To provide an insight into the French culture.
- To achieve skills in all subject areas equivalent to those in the English program.
- Ability to take post-secondary education with French as the language of instruction.
- Ability to gain employment using French as the work language.

Questions?

Questions? Please contact Megan Weir, VP of Shuswap Middle School at (250) 832-6031 or Laura Jegues, District Vice-Principal of French Immersion, at (250) 832-3741.



COMMON QUESTIONS about French Immersion programs in our schools

What are the benefits of learning a second language?

- ✓ Learning a second language develops your child's listening and learning skills as well as their self discipline
- ✓ It increases their cognitive abilities by helping them to become more flexible thinkers.
- ✓ It enhances their knowledge of and their ability to communicate in their first language.
- ✓ It makes learning a third and fourth language easier.
- ✓ It can provide opportunities for future employment or career advancement.

What about the students' academic achievements?

- ✓ Research shows there is absolutely no detrimental effect on academic performance in any subject area despite learning in a new language.
- ✓ Students gain larger English vocabulary as French words are often similar to English words.

What will happen to my child's first language?

The authors of "Yes You Can Help! Information and Inspiration for French Immersion Parents", Pat Brehaut and Judy Gibson have concluded that the results of 30 years of studies undertaken from St. John's to Victoria are clear and consistent. Early Immersion students tend to lag behind English-program students in more technical aspects of the language (punctuation and spelling) until they have a year or two of English Language Arts. However, by Grade 5 or 6 (even if this subject is not introduced until grade 4), they perform as well as their English-program peers

In School District No. 83 some students perform equal to the English students and/or sometimes outperform them with respect to English language communication and reading by Grade 5 or 6.

How does Late Immersion compare with Early French Immersion?

- ✓ Late French Immersion is not a continuation of Early French Immersion. It is a separate program, offered in addition to Early Immersion, which provides an alternative final entry point for English students who want to become bilingual.
- ✓ In Grade 8, the Early and Late Immersion students join together into one program. The two groups become academically cohesive during the secondary years.

More information at www.sd83.bc.ca



North Okanagan-Shuswap
School District No. 83



**INTERESTED IN LATE
FRENCH IMMERSION?
ESSENTIAL MEETING & FOLLOW UP
REGISTRATION**

THURS., MARCH 11, 2021
AT 6 P.M. VIA TEAMS: A VIRTUAL MEETING