

Learning French

Opening a world of opportunities



GREATER
SASKATOON
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

French Immersion

English and French are fundamental to the Canadian identity – it's a legacy that Canada celebrates and one that is acknowledged around the world as a unique characteristic of Canadian culture. French Immersion, available in Saskatoon since 1966, continues to be a sound educational option for children.

Frequently Asked Questions . . .

How much French is taught in kindergarten?

French is the language of instruction for the immersion Kindergarten program. The children will rarely hear French outside the classroom, so it is important they hear French as much as possible in school. English can be used in situations of personal safety (like fire drills) or emotional upsets, but in general French should be spoken whenever possible.

How is French taught to young children?

French Immersion children learn to use French in the same way that toddlers learn to speak at home - they learn by speaking. As the school year progresses, Kindergarten teachers will increase the amount of French used. Children quickly associate the sound of French phrases with regular parts of the Kindergarten routine. They also initially learn a lot through songs, rhymes and stories.



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Is French Immersion for everyone?

At Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, our programming is based on the belief that all children are learners. Parents who have questions about their child's learning needs and whether French Immersion is suitable may contact Ron Sirois, Co-ordinator, Instructional Learning Services, at 659-7074 or rsirois@gscs.sk.ca

Will the French Immersion Kindergarten program adequately prepare students for Grade 1?

The Kindergarten program is aimed at developing the whole child to his or her full potential so that he or she can become a proactive participant in a journey of life-long learning.

Will my child's English language development be affected?

Many parents fear that the price of concentration on French language development may be less than average accomplishment in English, science and mathematics. Extensive independent research by educators in many jurisdictions concludes otherwise. Most studies reveal that any short-term lags in the acquisition of these skills by total immersion students are made up within three or four years.

Goals of the French Immersion Program

- Students become functionally bilingual- that is, they are able to communicate easily in French and English after completing the 12-year program.
- Students are capable of pursuing post-secondary education and training in French and English
- Students are capable of undertaking employment in French and English
- Students understand and appreciate attitudes and customs other than their own.

**Information in this flyer is adapted from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education's Handbook for Administrators, French Language Programs*