

The Late French Immersion Program 2021-2022

Rocky Lake Junior High
Information Package

What is Late French Immersion?

Late French Immersion is a program designed for students entering into Grade 7, whose experience with the French language has been limited to elementary Core French.

Why should we learn French?

- * French is one of the world's most widely spoken languages. Native French speakers can be found on nearly every continent. French is also one of the least difficult languages for English speakers to learn.

Why is French Second Language important?

- * 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.
 - enhance their first-language and overall literacy skills.

Late French Immersion... by the numbers

- * Grade 7 Late French Immersion students will take 60-75% of their courses in French including: French Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Healthy Living
- * Students are required to speak French 100% of the time!
- * The remaining subjects will be taught in English (Physical Education, Art, Family Studies, Technology Education, English Language Arts, Band)
- * Students in Late French Immersion follow the same curriculum and are expected to meet the same outcomes as students in the English Program.

The LFI Program is designed to...

- * enable all students to communicate effectively in French using listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing and other various means of representation.
- * enable all students to work and study both independently and cooperatively.
- * enable all students to solve problems individually and collaboratively.
- * encourage personal development of skills, attitudes and values.

The LFI Program is designed to...

- * enable all students to express their ideas and feelings using a variety of methods.
- * enable all students to locate, evaluate, adapt, create and share information using a wide range of sources and technologies.
- * enable all students to demonstrate a better understanding of their own and others' cultural heritage with a particular emphasis on French speaking communities.

The role of parents/guardians

The best way to help your child is to be positive and supportive:

- Continue to read with your child every night.
- Invite your child to read with you.
- Watch French television with your child.
- Take advantage of French cultural activities in your area.
- Encourage your child to speak French at home (*but do not make it a chore*).
- Ask your child to talk about the school day but in the home language.

The role of parents/guardians

- * Parents/Guardians should be reassured that what is vital in their involvement is providing a rich and supportive environment in the child's first language.
- * French Immersion Programs are specifically designed for children of parents or guardians who do not speak French.

The role of parents/guardians

- * 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!

What to consider when choosing Late French Immersion

- * Does your child enjoy learning in French? Has your child expressed an interest/desire to be in French Immersion?
- * How is your child's social and emotional development?
- * Does your child have a positive self-esteem?

What to consider when choosing Late French Immersion

- * Can your child adjust easily to unfamiliar situations and are they comfortable taking risks in those situations?
- * Can your child work independently and problem-solve when faced with challenges while learning new material?

What to consider when choosing Late French Immersion

- * Choosing French Immersion should not be based on friendships but rather on whether or not this program is the best program for your child!
- * If you are still uncertain, it may be helpful to speak to your child's grade six teacher.

Are there particular resources needed for French Immersion?

- * Each student will be asked to purchase a Bescherelle for verb conjugation.
- * Students will also need a good quality French-English dictionary that they will use throughout grade 7, 8 and 9. (Beginner and visual dictionaries don't meet student needs as their language skills develop).

At High School Completion...

- * Students receive a French Immersion Certificate at the end of grade 12 upon completion of course requirements.
- * Upon completion, students should be able to:
 - function in a French-speaking community
 - accept a job where French is the working language
 - pursue university or college education in French

Student Input

- * What did former students in grade 7 have to say about choosing French Immersion and their personal experiences?

Student Input

- * « When I was in grade 6, like you, I found it a VERY hard decision to choose either French or English. Go with French. I never thought I would be able to understand what the teachers were saying to me, but look at me now!»
- * « The teachers are great and very helpful. »

Student Input

- * « French Immersion is great because you get to learn new things every day. If you don't understand what the French teachers are saying just say « I don't understand ». In French it's « Je ne comprends pas. » They will say it another way until you understand »

Student Input

- * « When I started French I didn't want to be in it because all my friends are in English. But I made friends in French! »
- * « When I first started French Immersion I was really nervous and I hardly knew any French. Now it's so much easier and I can have full conversations in French! »

Student Input

- * « It's a great opportunity to learn a new language and it's fun too! »
- * « French Immersion is not as hard as you think. The teachers are really nice and encouraging, they understand that this is all new to you and are here to help you. »

Student Input

- * « When I first decided to go into French Immersion I was very nervous but now I love it and I am so glad I chose it. »
- * « The first month is difficult because you most likely won't understand a word they are saying, but after that it gets easier and you will get better each week, each month. »

Student Input

*« And I promise, you'll do well as long as you pay attention and do the work. »



* Choosing French Immersion requires careful thought and reflection. If you have any questions after reading through this information package, please feel free to reach out to any of the following staff members:

- * Don Reardon: School Principal dreardon@hrce.ca
- * Michelle Kavanaugh: School Vice-Principal mkavanaugh@hrce.ca
- * Chuck Williams: School Vice-Principal cwilliams@hrce.ca
- * Mary-Jo Mokler: Grade 7 French Language Arts Teacher mmokler@hrce.ca
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