

## French Immersion Program

Starting in the 2020-21 school year, Lloydminster Public School Division will be offering French Immersion programming to Kindergarten and Grade 1 students at Barr Colony School. If there is enough interest the French Immersion program will be offered at the Grade 2 level as well. The dual track school will continue to offer instruction in English in addition to French. Each year the program will expand by one grade level to ensure that students have access to French Immersion as they continue their elementary school education.

The program is designed for students whose first language is not French. In the classroom French will be used as the primary language for communication and instruction.

### Our Goal:

To offer a comprehensive French education that allows students to learn and develop French language competence while continuing to develop English language skills.

## Registration

Please watch our social media channels or website for French Immersion registration dates and parent information nights.

## Transportation

LPSD will provide city-wide transportation to students registered in the French Immersion program at Barr Colony School.

## Instructional Requirements

Kindergarten	100 %	All instruction is done in French.
Grades 1-2	90-100 %	English language arts may be offered but isn't necessary until Grade 3.
Grades 3-5	70-90 %	English language arts classes begin. It is possible that other English language instruction classes are offered.
Grades 6-9	50-70 %	English language arts classes continue to be offered. It is possible that other English language instruction classes are also offered.
Grades 10-12	50-60 %	Students take required classes of study and electives in French and English.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *How will French Immersion benefit my child?*

- Research has shown that French as a second language can improve cognitive development and intellectual abilities.
- Greater range of post-secondary and career options.
- Enhanced reading comprehension and writing proficiency in both languages, as well as overall communication skills.
- The ability to learn multiple languages and be exposed to a different culture.

### *Can I support my child even if I don't speak French?*

- Many parents of French Immersion children have little or no French language skills. Teachers foster students language learning at school while parents can support their child's learning at home by:
- Having your child read to you in both languages.
  - Offer French resources to your child such as TV, websites, library resources, etc.
  - Recognize your child's accomplishments to build their confidence for tackling new challenges.
  - Volunteer in your child's classroom.
  - Ask your child what he or she has learned that day.

### *How do I know if my child is doing well in French Immersion?*

Similar to our current Kindergarten classes the teacher and the school will keep parents informed by way of report cards, teacher-parent conferences, online forums, etc.

### *Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?*

Yes, the curriculum is created by the Ministry of Saskatchewan. Students work toward the same academic goals regardless of the language of instruction.

### **When do students start to learn reading and writing in English?**

Once some fluency in French is well established, students are ready to begin studying English language arts. In French Immersion, this occurs in Grade 2 or Grade 3. The children will usually learn to read in French first and will transfer their skill to their first language.

### **Will French Immersion affect my child's social development?**

Studies have shown that immersion students suffer no intellectual, emotional, or social harm. They may associate more with their French Immersion classmates, however, outside of school activities they interact with their friends and neighbours.

### **Will my son or daughter be bilingual once they leave the program?**

The goal of French Immersion is to achieve functional bilingualism. However, it is essential for students to work on French through high school to achieve fluency in French for career or personal reasons.

### **How do young children learn French?**

They learn by speaking, the same way toddlers do. They will learn in stages by first listening then speaking. Kindergarten teachers increase the amount of French they use as the year progresses until it becomes the main language in the classroom.

### **Will my child's English language skills suffer?**

There may be an initial lag of English language development in the early years, however, French Immersion students are able to reach the same skill level as their peers by Grade 5 or 6.

## Contact Us

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Principal: Nicole Lepage  
Vice Principal: Tenille Woods  
T: 780-875-4054  
F: 780-875-0851  
3103-52 Avenue  
Lloydminster, AB  
T9V 1M9



T: 780-875-5541  
F: 780-875-7829  
5017-46 Street  
Lloydminster, AB  
T9V 1R4

# Is French Immersion Right For My Child?

