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Sundance School

Early French Immersion Program

Benefits of Learning French

The Early French Immersion Program provides students with the opportunity to acquire fluency in speaking, reading, writing, listening and communicating in French by the end of Grade 12. It is a program in which French is the language of instruction, beginning in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and continuing to Grade 3 when English is introduced. Early French Immersion is designed for non-Francophones and is an effective way for students to become functionally fluent in French while achieving all of the learning outcomes of the regular programs of study.

Learning French offers students significant linguistic, academic and cognitive benefits. It opens doors to knowledge, communication, culture and travel, and gives graduates an edge in the global job market. It also provides the following benefits:

- Strengthens English literacy skills
- Develops listening and learning skills
- Enhances problem-solving abilities
- Increases cognitive abilities, making the student a more flexible and creative thinker
- Increases a student's feeling of self-esteem and pride
- Broadens students' cultural life through access to literature, art, music and theater in another language
- Helps students to better understand the history, development and government of their country
- Makes learning a third or fourth language much easier

CBE French Immersion students have the opportunity to receive an internationally recognized language credentialing diploma. Language credentialing is a standardized assessment of language proficiency recognized internationally.

Subject and Language Breakdown by Grade

In Early French Immersion, reading and writing are first taught in French, but students quickly transfer those skills to English beginning in Grade 3 with the introduction of English Language Arts as a subject area. The program includes a strong English language component in Grades 3-12. Research shows that by Grade 6, the literacy skills of French Immersion students meet or exceed those of their peers in the regular English program.





Kindergarten, Grade 1 & 2:

All subjects are taught in French. At Sundance all subjects are taught in French with the exception of Music.

Grade 3:

80% French, 20% English- English Language Arts is introduced.

Grades 4-6:

70% French, 30% English. Currently after completion of Grade 4 at Sundance, students go to David Thompson from grades 7-9.

Grades 7-9:

French Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are taught in French; all other subjects are taught in English.

Grades 10-12:

French Language Arts, Social Studies and Mathematics are taught in French. The designated High School is Dr. E.P. Scarlett.



Is French Immersion Right for Your Child and Family?

If your child is:

- Competent and confident in speaking and understanding in their first language
- A good listener and is able to mimic
- Loves language and enjoys talking
- Does not become easily frustrated by setbacks or mistakes
- Enjoys challenges, is a risk-taker and is adaptable
- Self-motivated and willing to listen to and speak French as much as possible

Parents do not need to speak French, however, their commitment to the program and encouragement of positive attitudes towards learning and speaking French are important factors in student success.

Early French Immersion:

Given how Covid-19 has impacted schools, is French Immersion the right choice for my child? Yes! The Calgary Board of Education believes that every child is hardwired to learn languages. With highly qualified and committed teachers, your child's learning experience will be the best it can be regardless of how and where learning takes place. French Immersion teachers have been very successful using technology to connect, engage and continue to learn in both French and English.

Information about Sundance School

We understand that attending to school culture is the most effective way to ensure an environment in which children are safe and meaningfully engaged. We understand that learning needs to be structured toward and responsive to an increasing number of learner complexities. We are enriched by the shared commitment of staff, students and parents. We have an active school council and parent association that participates in a variety of ways to enrich the learning of Sundance students. We have a large dedicated group of volunteers who help us to provide an advantaged learning environment. Our staff, students, and parents are active in support of extra-curricular activities (including intramurals, clubs, and music) and annual artist in residencies.

