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Banff Trail 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:

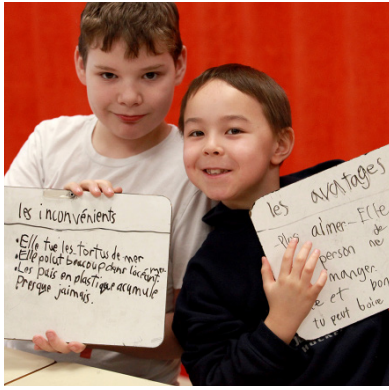
- Strengthens English literacy skills
- Develops listening and learning skills
- Enhances problem-solving abilities
- Increases cognitive abilities, making the student a more flexible and creative thinker
- Increases a student's feeling of self-esteem and pride
- Broadens students' cultural life through 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 Banff Trail all subjects are taught in French.

Grade 3:

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

Grades 4-6:

70% French, 30% English. Currently after completion of Grade 5, students go to Branton School from grades 6-9.

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 William Aberhart School.

Is French Immersion Right for Your Child and Family?

French Immersion could be a great option 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 Banff Trail School

At Banff Trail School we strive to meet the individual needs of our students through effective education and the personalization of learning. We are a dynamic, caring, bilingual community where everyone is valued and respected. While engaged in meaningful, interactive and challenging work, we strive for personal and academic success.



Calgary Board
of Education

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