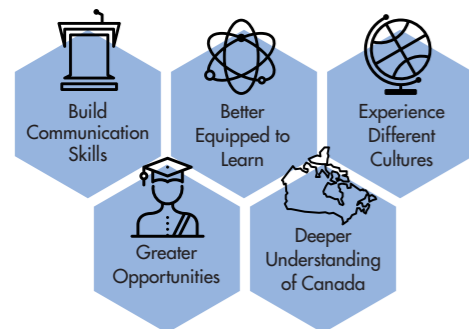


THE PROGRAM

LATE FRENCH IMMERSION(LFI)

School District 62 Late French Immersion Program is offered at École John Stubbs Memorial School. This two-year intensive language-learning program is available to all students who have successfully completed grade 5. In grade 6, students quickly move toward 100% instruction in French. English Language Arts is reintroduced in grade 7 and **French instruction decreases to 80%**. Students join their Early French Immersion peers in grade 8 as they continue on French Immersion at the secondary level.

THE BENEFITS OF FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS



Graduation from French Immersion gives students the opportunity to attain a level of bilingualism allowing them to function in a French-speaking community, work in French or pursue education in French at the post-secondary level. French Immersion has proven to be an effective way for learners to achieve linguistic competence in both French and English. Graduates from the French Immersion program receive essentially the same education as their peers in English language classrooms, with the added benefit of being immersed in a new culture while attaining a second language.

French Immersion is a popular program in School District 62 and is offered subject to space availability and the requirements of the District's enrolment and registration process.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 62 (SOOKE)

3143 Jacklin Road
 Victoria, BC, V9B 5R1
 250.474.9800
 French.Programs@sd62.bc.ca



sd62.bc.ca/french



FRENCH IMMERSION



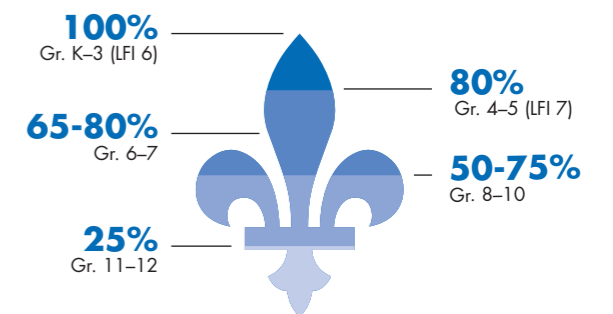
PROGRAM GUIDE

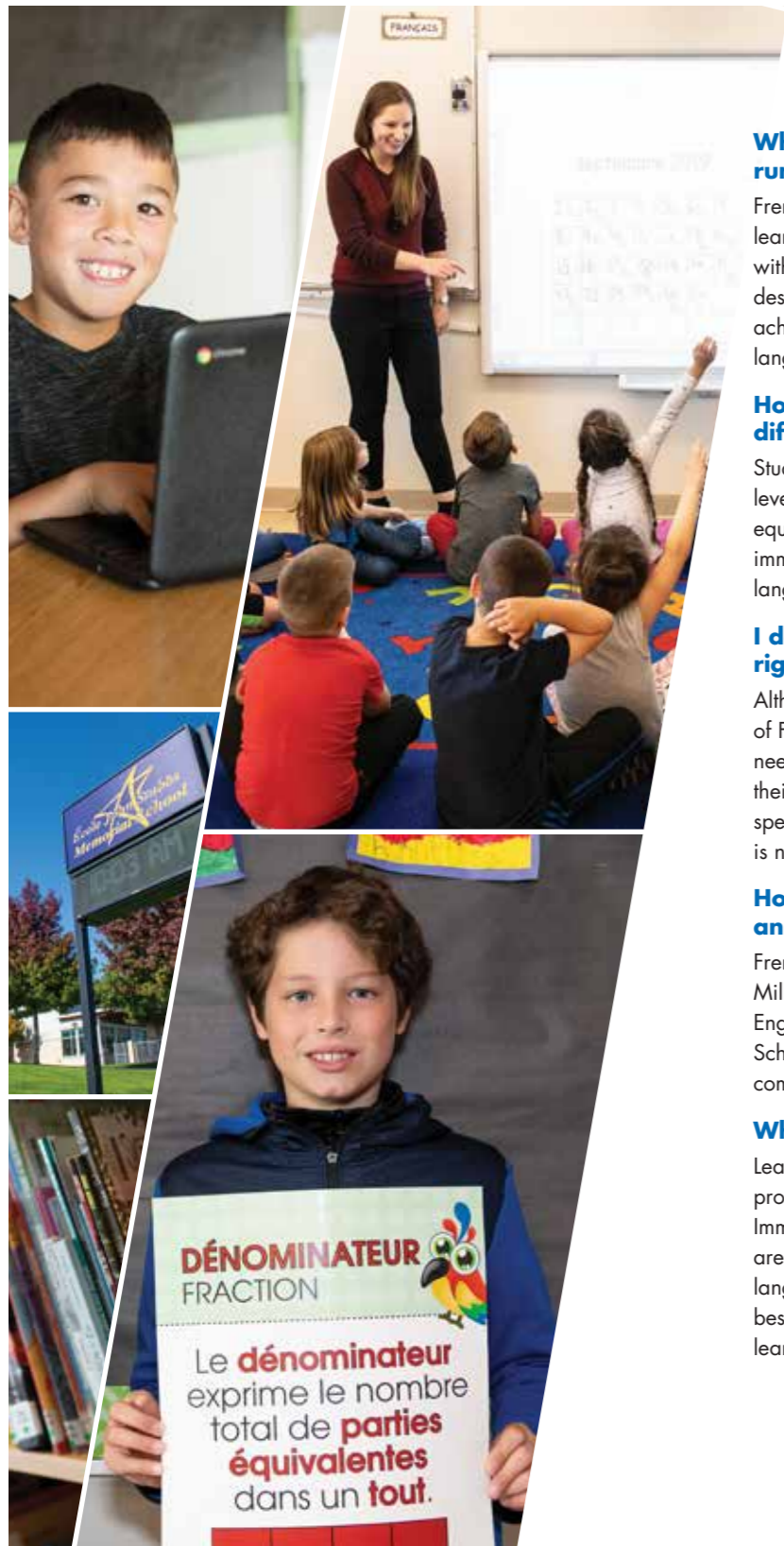
GETTING INTO

EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION(EFI)

School District 62 Early French Immersion Program is offered at École Millstream Elementary School (Langford), École John Stubbs Memorial School (Colwood) and École Poirier Elementary School (Sooke). Students enter the Early French Immersion Program in kindergarten with a gradual progression toward **100% instruction in French in the classroom**. The Early French Immersion Program sees a continuation of 100% French instruction through to the end of grade three after which English Language Arts is reintroduced.

FRENCH LANGUAGE AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL OF EDUCATION





What is French Immersion, and how is it run in Sooke School District?

French Immersion is a French second language learning program available to all students living within the Sooke School District. The program is designed to help French second language learners achieve a high level of functionality in the French language.

How is the French Immersion Program different from the English Program?

Students in the French Immersion Program achieve a level of learning in all the subject areas that is equivalent to that of the English Program. Students are immersed in French in the classroom; French is the language of instruction across the subject areas.

I don't speak French, is French Immersion right for my child?

Although parents should be willing to learn a little bit of French at home alongside their child, they do not need to be able to speak the language in order for their child to enter the program; French Immersion is specifically designed for families whose first language is not French.

How will I communicate with the school and teacher if I don't speak French?

French Immersion teachers at École John Stubbs, École Millstream and École Poirier can communicate in both English and French. Report cards are in English, School newsletters are in English and district communication is in English.

What if my child has a learning disability?

Learning support is provided in the French Immersion program, as within the English Program. French Immersion learning support and classroom teachers are experienced in working with a variety of second language learners and have training around how to best support French Immersion students facing learning challenges.

Will my child learn any English at school?

Starting in grade four, English language arts is reintroduced into the French immersion program, representing approximately 20 percent of students' instructional time.

What are the benefits to learning French starting in Kindergarten, Early French Immersion?

Brain research has shown that children under the age of seven are within a "window of opportunity" that sees optimal language learning potential. Research has also shown that those children who learn a language before the age of ten are more likely to have accurate pronunciation.

My preschooler doesn't speak any French. How can she/he be expected to go into a 100% French Kindergarten classroom?

There will be an initial transition period where the teacher will communicate in English with students. After this, the teacher speaks only in French unless there is an emergency or need for emotional support. For some time, the children will speak to the teacher and each other in English. As language acquisition progresses throughout the Kindergarten year, students will increasingly use French to communicate in the classroom.

How will my child's language skills develop as she/he moves through the Early or Late French Immersion program?

Children proceed from understanding no French to mimicking and repeating the teacher's words to using English sentences with French words thrown in. At this stage, French is interspersed with some English. By mid-grade one (Early French Immersion) or within the first months of grade six (Late French Immersion), children are able to use French sentences. In effect, they are learning language by using language.

What are the benefits to learning French starting in grade 6, Late French Immersion?

Late French Immersion students have completed Elementary School, where they have been able to build a strong English base in literacy and numeracy. At this age, many students are able to make their own personal choice to join the French Immersion program. As such, Late French Immersion learners are often highly motivated language learners.

How long in the Late French Immersion program and what happens to students after they have completed it?

Late French Immersion spans grades six and seven. The grade six year sees a quick but progressive move toward 100% French instruction. The grade seven year sees the reintroduction of English Language Arts and a decrease to 80% French instruction. In grade eight, Late French Immersion students join the general French Immersion program and are mixed with peers who have been in French Immersion since Kindergarten.

How does a Late French Immersion student's French compare to that of an Early French Immersion student?

This fast-paced program sees many students achieving the same level of language proficiency as Early French Immersion peers by the time they reach high school. While language progression does vary from student to student, many demonstrate language and communication skills that are the same as Early French Immersion students. Initially, Late French Immersion students will have a less developed vocabulary and need to continue to build this along with oral skills as they move toward the secondary program.