

# **FRENCH IMMERSION**

## **Introduction**

Saskatoon Catholic Schools offer a French Immersion program from K-12. We believe that the study of second languages is an internationally accepted standard of what constitutes a broadly educated person.

Pupils are provided the opportunity to learn in French rather than about French in that a significant part of the total school experience is in a second language.

The study of second languages provides:

- an opportunity to understand one's first language and to become more effective in using it;
- the chance to understand the thoughts and feelings of those people who use the second language;
- the opportunity to read and enjoy the literature of other countries;
- more sources from which to gain valuable information and insights;
- an experience that will make learning a third language even easier than learning the second.

## **Goal**

The goal of the French Immersion program is to develop academic and language skills in the second language which will enable students to become functionally bilingual.

## **Curricula**

The curricula for French programs are prescribed by the Department of Education, Training and Employment under the authority of the Education Act. The language of Instruction is French for all subjects except English Language Arts and Religion. French Immersion teachers are trained in second language teaching methodology and have proven competence in French.

Research shows that French Immersion is the most effective way for children to become functionally bilingual. Research also proves that after several years in a French Immersion program, students perform as well or better than those in a regular English program.

## **Early French Immersion Program**

Normally, the percentage of instruction is:

K	:	100% of Instruction in French
Grade 1	:	90% of Instruction in French
Grade 2 - 6	:	75% of Instruction in French
Grade 7 - 8	:	60 - 75% of Instruction in French
Grade 9 - 12	:	50% of Instruction in French

In grade 7 - 8, Science and Health may be offered in English.

In our High Schools, grades 9 - 12, the following subjects are offered in French:

Français A,B: 90, 10, 20, 30  
Science humaines/histoire: 90, 10, 20, 30  
Mathématiques: 90, 10, 20  
Éducation chrétienne: 90, 10, 20, 30

Students who successfully complete 12 High School credits obtain a bilingual certificate upon graduation.

## **French Immersion Principals Meetings**

- take place at 10:00 a.m. the morning of Program meetings
- agenda items are suggested by principals, superintendents and/or the coordinator
- serve to inform, share, review literature, plan studies or reviews

## **Monitor Program**

- functions in collaboration with O.M.L.O. and the Commissioner of Second Languages
- a federally funded program which employs six monitors for our school division, placed in French immersion elementary schools
- requires a cooperating teacher in each of the elementary immersion schools to support and supervise the monitors as well as sign the monitor's time sheet
- the monitor, the cooperating teacher and the coordinator are expected to attend regular meetings

## **Ordering Teacher-made Materials**

- teacher developed and produced materials respond to the needs of primary immersion students and teachers

- order forms are sent in May
- orders are filled in June
- billing takes place in September
- most primary teacher-made materials replace workbooks published by publishers

### **Kit Circulation**

- approximately ten kits per grade circulate from Gr. 2 - 8
- kits follow genres as well as themes chosen from the social studies, sciences, fine arts and/or health curricula
- 82 theme kits circulate five times a year - pick-up and delivery are on specific dates
- information regarding contents of kits and possible choices is sent in May
- teacher order kits in June by filling out an order form
- circulation begins September 1 and ends mid-June for inventory
- inventory and reordering take place in June

### **Commercial Reading Collections Circulation**

- commercial reading collections for Gr. 1 - 9 circulate as teachers request collections which supplement and enhance their themes
- information is sent in May
- teachers reserve for September in June
- circulation begins on September 1 and ends mid-June for inventory
- inventory and reordering take place in June

### **Concours Oratoire**

- a public speaking event which is supported by CPF (Canadian Parents for French)
- takes place in March
- has school, city and provincial competition components

### **Commission Culturelle**

- a provincial organization which helps choose and fund French artists (theater, singers, etc.) Who then visit and perform in schools
- a booklet containing suggested performers is distributed to all schools in May

### **Répertoire**

- a document which lists teaching resources for all subjects and all grade levels K - 12 including Learning Assistance
- is regularly updated to reflect newly implemented curriculum guides and the new teaching materials needed to teach these curricula

## **Core French**

- a beginner Core French course is offered in Grade 9
- a system placement curriculum-based test is administered to students wishing to have Gr. 9 Core French Waived
- Core French is offered from Grades 9 - 12

## **Evaluation of Videos and CD ROMS**

- teachers are regularly asked to preview and evaluate videos and CD ROMs before purchasing the public viewing rights
- once the public viewing rights are paid, videos and CD ROMs are available from the Resource Centre or the theme circulating kits

## **Curriculum Guides**

- curriculum guides for all subjects taught in French are now available by calling Bernie Rodych at the Service Centre