

Intensive French (IF) is a second language teaching approach in which French is taught *intensively* for **most of the day** during **five months of the school year in Grade 6**. Students in this program receive about **75% of their instruction in French** during the first half of the school year and 10% during the second half; the rest of the curriculum (except for *Mathematics, Phys. Ed., and Music*) is “compressed” into the second half of the school year.

Intensive French is a literacy-based approach to learning a second language. It is based on the use of French for *authentic communication* in the classroom with a focus on the development of speaking skills in French. Classroom activities are related to projects with a high degree of interaction between teacher and students, as well as among students.

Intensity of French instruction

Students and teacher communicate only in French during 75% of the day. The focus is on learning French and not on other subjects (except Mathematics, Phys. Ed., and Music taught in English). Real-life projects within chosen themes help students to see the practical use and value of what they are learning.

Time of concentrated exposure

It has been shown that the most efficient way to learn another language is to spend concentrated amounts of time with it. For example, higher results are achieved with 60 hours concentrated into four weeks than 60 hours spread over four months.

Literacy-based approach

Students are constantly involved in activities that develop listening, speaking, reading and writing as they use French to communicate. They perform tasks and projects and participate in daily classroom activities. The literacy skills developed in IF can be transferred to and used in English to enhance literacy skills in both languages.

What is the difference between Intensive French, core French and French immersion?

- Core French is the basic second language program intended to enable students to communicate purposefully in French and develop a positive attitude to cultural diversity. Core French is delivered in all elementary schools from grades 4 to 6 with an average of 10% instructional time and from grades 7 to 9 with an average of 12% instructional time.
- Intensive French is an intensified French language program involving a period of intensive exposure to instruction / learning in French (75% of instructional time for one half of the Grade 6 year only).
- French Immersion is an intensive French language acquisition program with the goal of developing functionally bilingual students through teaching most of the curriculum with French as the language of instruction over a number of years, with an average of 70% (junior high) to 33% (senior high) of instructional time.

For more information, we invite you to attend our Regional Information Session:

Monday, April 19th · 6:00 – 7:00pm: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/cqy-phwk-wpu>

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