

MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION

What is Middle French Immersion?

Middle French Immersion is an optional French program designed for all students. The Middle French Immersion program begins in Grade 4 and continues until Grade 12. From Grade 4-9, students learn most subjects in French, except English Language Arts, Physical Education, and Music, spending 75% - 80% of their learning time in French. At the Senior High level, French Immersion students must complete nine courses in French over three years to earn a French Immersion certificate.

Do Middle French Immersion students learn as much as students in classes taught in English?

French immersion students and teachers follow the same curriculum as classes taught in English in every subject except French Language Arts. Research shows that, over time, French Immersion students usually perform as well or better than other students on standardized assessments. Research has also shown that students experience a level of success that is similar to what they would achieve if they were learning in English.

Will students become bilingual?

The amount of French learned depends largely on the time spent in a French environment. Since students will spend most of their time learning in French, most should become functionally bilingual, and a number will become fluently bilingual if they remain in French Immersion until high school graduation. Students learn at different rates depending on their aptitude, work habits and motivation; therefore, individual results will vary.

Are students at a disadvantage if only English is spoken at home?

Middle French Immersion programs are designed for children who come from English-speaking homes. Parents can support their children by encouraging them to do their best, providing structure for homework and by working with the teacher and the school when concerns arise.

What happens if a student wants to leave the Middle French Immersion program?

In such a case, parents/guardians should share their concerns with the school. The school Program Planning Team and parents/guardians will explore supports and make decisions about the student's program (as is the case for all students). All available means of supporting the student within the Middle French Immersion program will be offered. A meeting with a French Programs Consultant, parent(s)/guardian(s) and school staff is required prior to any decision about student placement being made.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q.** *Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?*
- A.** Yes, the curriculum must follow the guidelines set out by the Nova Scotia Department of Education.
- Q.** *What about achievement in Math and other subjects?*
- A.** Research indicates that the performance of French Immersion students in other subjects is equal to the performance of students who are in regular English programs.
- Q.** *How can I help my child with homework when I can't speak French?*
- A.** It is not necessary for parents to be able to speak the language. Communication between the home and the school is the best means of resolving difficulties that may arise in learning French. Immersion teachers are accustomed to working with parents on language related issues.

Schools Currently Offering Middle Immersion Programs at Grade 4

- Bridgewater Elementary School
Lindsay Willow, Principal
902-541-8240

A Regional Information Session will take place virtually, April 14th:

Wednesday, April 14th · 6:00 – 7:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ywm-tpqm-hgw>

CONTACTS

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