**Junior Extended French Program – Grade 4 Entry**

**\*\*Please note that the Junior Extended French Program is phasing out as the Middle French Immersion Program begins.**

**The last cohort will begin in September 2020, and merge with the Early French Immersion cohort in Grade 9 in 2025.**

**Q#1: What is the Grade 4 Junior Extended French Program?**

**A:** The Junior Extended French program currently begins in Grade 4 and provides a half-day of instruction in French and a half-day of instruction in English to the end of Grade 8. Students who successfully complete the Secondary Extended French program are eligible for a Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Extended French from the TDSB upon graduation.

**In Grade 4, 5 and 6:**

* Half of the day is in French and half of the day is in English.
* The subjects taught in French are French Language, Social Studies and The Arts.
* The subjects taught in English are English Language Arts, Math and Science.

**In Grades 7 and 8:**

* Half of the day is in French and half of the day is in English.
* The subjects taught in French are Language, History/Geography and The Arts.
* All other subjects are taught in English

**Q#2: Do the students in the Grade 4 Junior Extended French Program blend with the students in the Early French Immersion program at any point?**

**A:** The students in the Grade 4 Junior Extended French program do not blend with the students from the Early French Immersion program (SK entry) in the elementary panel. On occasion, French Immersion and Extended French students in secondary are in blended secondary subject courses.

**Q#3: Why does the Grade 4 Junior Extended French not blend with the Early French Immersion program in elementary?**

**A:** The model of delivery to ensure both programs (French Immersion program and Early French Immersion program) achieve the required number of French instructional hours to enter Grade 9 is different. The Early French Immersion and Junior Extended French programs are distinct pathways with their own entry point and teaching strategies that honour the students’ experience. Also, the programs are very distinctive based on hours, subjects taught and exposure.

**Q#4: What is the future of the Grade 4 Junior Extended French program in TDSB?**

**A:** The Grade 4 Junior Extended French program will phase out as the Grade 4 Middle Immersion begins in 2021. The last cohort will begin in September 2020, and merge with the Early French Immersion cohort in Grade 9 in September 2025.

**Q#5: Will there be a gap in access to a Grade 4 intensive French program for students?**

**A:** There will be **NO** gap in access to the Grade 4 entry to intensive French programs. Interested students in the Grade 3 English program in 2019/2020 may apply in January of 2020 to the Grade 4 Junior Extended French program for entry in September 2020, and interested students in the Grade 3 English program in 2020/2021 may apply to the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program for entry in September 2021.

**Q#6: What is the timeline for the phase out of the Grade 4 Junior Extended French program?**

**A:** Please see the timeline below.

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| **PHASING OUT OF GRADE 4 JUNIOR EXTENDED FRENCH** |
| **Program** | **Final Entry Class Begins** | **Cohort Graduates Elementary Panel**  | **Cohort Begins Immersion Secondary** |
| Grade 4 Junior Extended French | September 2020 | June 2025 | September 2025 |

**Q#7: My child is currently (2019-2020) in the Junior Extended French program. Will these changes affect him or her?**

**A:** No, your child will not be affected by these changes.

**Q#8: My child is currently (2019-2020) in the Junior Extended French program. Will he or she be able to complete the Junior Extended French program?**

**A:** Yes, students who began the Junior Extended French in September 2019 or prior will be able to complete the Extended French program through secondary school.

**Q#9: My child is currently (2019-2020) in Grade 3 and I plan to apply to the Junior Extended French program for September 2020. Will these changes affect us?**

**A:** Applications were accepted (January 2020) for interested Grade 3 students in the English program wishing to enter the Junior Extended French program in Grade 4 of September 2020. These students will complete Junior Extended French through Grade 8 and should they wish to have a continuation of French programming in secondary, these students will join French Immersion in Grade 9.

**Q#10: My child will begin the Junior Extended French program in September 2020. Will he or she be able to complete the Extended French program?**

**A:** Students who begin the Grade 4 Junior Extended French program in September 2020 will be

able to complete Grade 8 in Extended French. There will be no new Grade 9 Extended French in

September 2025.

**Q#11: What will happen for Grade 9 for the students who begin the Junior Extended French**

**program in September 2020?**

**A:** Students who complete Grade 8 in the Junior Extended French program in June of 2025 and

who are interested in a continuation of program will be accommodated in the French Immersion

program in Grade 9 in September 2025.

**Q#12: What support will be in place for these students who begin Grade 9 Immersion in September 2025?**

**A:** Professional learning for staff will be offered focussing on differentiated instruction in order to accommodate classes of students that have both Immersion/Extended. Additionally, students from an Extended French background will be in an Immersion program; however, they will be permitted to pursue either the certificate of bilingual studies (French Immersion) or the certificate of bilingual studies (Extended French).

It is important to remember that the language of acquisition will progress right from the start of the Junior Extended French program. Additional hours of instruction cannot be added to the program as the model of French instruction for Grades 4-8 in the Junior Extended French program is 50%. The key support will come in Grade 9 when the teaching staff will receive students from the different program backgrounds in the FIF (French Language) class and will employ the range of differentiated instruction strategies that are in the repertoire of all teachers to support students.

The professional learning plan will include targeted meetings/support with Grade 9 French Immersion teachers ahead of the arrival of the blended cohort to discuss differentiation strategies and the continued support of students from different French program backgrounds. There are many Grade 9 Extended teachers with years of experience who are already differentiating for students from the Grade 7 Entry EF and the Grade 4 Entry EF as they have always blended once they begin high school, and as we know the instructional hours for both these programs are also different. We also have many instances where French Immersion and Extended French courses have blended in secondary (i.e. Civics, Careers, Arts, French Language). Staff will certainly capitalize on this experience and expertise as well as the sharing of best practices and pedagogy.

**Q#13: What is the difference between the TDSB certificate of bilingual studies in French Immersion and the TDSB certificate of bilingual studies in Extended French?**

**A:** **TDSB Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion** - Students who successfully complete the French Immersion program are eligible for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion.  To receive their certificate, students must have completed the FOUR French courses of the program (Grades 9 to 12).  The six (6) remaining credits MAY be completed at any level in other subjects offered where French is the language of instruction.

**TDSB Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Extended French** – Students who successfully complete the Extended French program are eligible for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Extended French.  To receive their certificate, students must have completed the FOUR French courses of the program (Grades 9 to 12).  The three (3) remaining credits MAY be completed at any level in other subjects offered where French is the language of instruction.

**Q#14: My child is currently (2019-2020) in Grade 2 or younger and we are considering the Junior Extended French program in the future. How will the changes affect us?**

**A:** Beginning in September 2021, the Grade 4 entry program will be the Grade 4 Middle Immersion. The Grade 4 Middle Immersion program will offer 100% instruction in French for Grades 4-5 and 75% instruction in French for Grades 6, 7 and 8.

**Q#15: Why the change to Grade 4 Middle Immersion?
A:** Over the next several years, the TDSB will phase in changes and enhancements to French-as-a-Second Language Programs, which are all aimed at improving equity of access for students. The recommendations approved at June 2019 board will see the restructuring of the Board’s intensive FSL programs leading to a single program model with two entry points – Junior Kindergarten French Immersion (beginning 2022) and Grade 4 Middle Immersion(beginning 2021).

In addition, the Grade 4 Middle Immersion Program will permit students to blend with the Early Immersion entry students at the onset of secondary school to continue their studies. This may permit more secondary schools to offer students a more fulsome menu of courses in French with a variety of depth and breadth to compulsory and elective courses.

**Q#16: What if I have questions about Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 Entry)?**

**A:** For more information, please refer to the Fact Sheet – Middle French Immersion.