

Middle French Immersion

What is Middle French Immersion?

Middle French Immersion is an intensive French as a Second Language program. This program begins in Grade 4. The model of instruction for the Middle French Immersion program is 100% French instruction for Grades 4 and 5. All class activities in Grades 4 and 5 are conducted in French. In Grades 6 to 8, the model of French instruction is 75% French. All subjects will be taught in French with the exception of English Language and Science. A specialist subject (e.g. Health and Physical Education) may be taught in English, if required due to timetabling.

Who is Middle French Immersion For?

- ✓ Designed for families who speak a language other than French at home.
- ✓ All students in the Grade 3 English program are eligible to apply to begin in Grade 4.
- ✓ We believe strongly that all students are capable of learning another language so students of all learning styles and language backgrounds are welcomed and supported in the program.
- ✓ The Middle French Immersion program is suited to families who are interested in the opportunity to develop proficiency in French, but perhaps moved to the TDSB after the Early French Immersion entry point.
- ✓ It is also suited to those who, for whatever reason, wish to consider the French Immersion opportunity when their child is a little older.

Benefits of the Middle Immersion Program

The Middle French Immersion program allows students of any language background to develop a high level of proficiency in French. Studying another language in this way also offers many other benefits to students including:

- ✓ Studying in another language has proven to enhance students' skills in the dominant language.
- ✓ Language learning offers other cognitive benefits such as highly developed thinking and learning skills that students apply to all areas of their studies.
- ✓ Proficiency in more than one language opens doors of opportunity to students for the future.
- ✓ Bilingual students develop strong communication skills overall and may learn additional languages more easily.

Application Information

For information on the Middle French Immersion program and the application process, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/French.

Currently, the application window for the Middle French Immersion program is in **January** of each year. Please refer to the website in early September for information on the application deadlines for a given year.

It is important to note that while placement in the program is guaranteed to all eligible on-time applicants, a placement in a particular school is **NOT** guaranteed.

What does the research say?

“An intensive dose of 'immersion' in a language is generally more effective for learning it than the same dose spread over a longer time.”
(Weshce, 2002)

Data showed that students enrolled in French-Immersion programs outperformed in their counterparts in non-immersion programs in reading performance.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/040322/dq040322a-eng.htm>

“Students in FI achieve advanced proficiency in French as well as mastery of school content (Science, Social Studies, Math etc) equivalent to similar students studying this content in English.” (Wesche, 2002)

Studies from various parts of Canada found no negative effects for EFI or MFI elementary school immersion students in mathematics, science and social studies achievement when tested in English.
(Wesche, 2002)

Even though a child's first language may not be a societal language, children can successfully learn an additional language, such as French, while learning English as a second language simultaneously. (O'Brien, 2017)

Second-language skills are often highly valued and expected by potential employers.
(O'Brien, 2017)

A study comparing a 50% program with an 80% French program found that increasing the intensity of French in a French Immersion program by teaching math in French is strongly associated with a positive effect on mathematics achievement. (Bournot-Trites & Reader, 2001)

Bibliography

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