



# Virtual School Elementary French Reorganization

## FACTS about French Immersion and Extended French

- French Immersion is 100% French instruction from SK-3; Grade 4 is 80% and 20% English; Grades 5 to 8 is 50% French and 50% English. Total number of French instruction hours is 6000 at the end of Grade 8.
- Extended French is 50% French and 50% English from Grade 4 to 8.

## FACTS about the Elementary Virtual School

- 64,000 students total; 226 French Immersion/Extended French classes for a total of 6,000 students
- The shortage of French language teachers in the province has greatly impacted the TDSB Elementary Virtual School. Staff continues to explore options to meet the needs of all French Immersion and Extended French classes and support the need for occasional teachers.
- Given that French Immersion starts in Senior Kindergarten in TDSB, it is imperative to staff those classes with French qualified teachers so that students get the foundation needed to be successful.
- Last week, staff completed a reorganization of some French Immersion and Extended French classes within the Elementary Virtual School to ensure that as many FI/EF classes as possible had a qualified French teacher. Staff was responding to a system shortfall of 48 classrooms with unfilled teachers in French Immersion or Extended French.
- Staff's goal was to maximize the use of French teachers. The model for Grades 4-8 EF and Grades 5-8 Extended French remains unchanged at 50% French and 50% English. The model for Grades 3 and 4 will change to a 50% French and 50% English where the change was required to enable the pairing up of French and English teachers in order to connect more FI/EF students with French qualified teachers.
- Though not ideal, this new scheduling allows for grades 3 to 8 classes to now have French instruction on a more consistent basis. English is usually introduced in grade 4, English will now be introduced in grade 3 for 50% of the time.
- This model allows all students to receive the necessary instruction in both languages and also remain with their existing classmates.
- Teachers impacted by the reorganization were informed of any changes to their class and a communication was also sent directly to all parents/guardians of impacted students.



- We heard parent concerns with the recent changes to some French Immersion and Extended French classes in Virtual School.
- This is meant to be a solution that will address Virtual School until we can go back to in person school. This is a very unique school year due to the pandemic and heightened by the shortage of French teachers in Ontario.
- These VS French Immersion students still have enough French instruction hours even with this reduced model to fulfill the requirements after grade 8.
- The status of all students currently enrolled in French Immersion or Extended French will be honoured next year when we will be able to continue our regular French programs. These students will not have to reapply to the French Immersion or Extended program.
- In the meantime, staff will work with teachers in both virtual and in person schools to provide online programs and resources that will support student learning.
- The existing model of French instruction in Early French Immersion in the TDSB provides students with over 6000 hours of instruction accumulated by the end of Grade 8. The Ministry requirement to continue in secondary French Immersion is 3800 hours. Even with this temporary adjustment to the model of instruction for a few Grade 3 and 4 classes, French Immersion students will fulfill the requirement
- Affected students in Grade 3 will still accumulate 5670 hours by the end of Grade 8. This prevents the students who had an English teacher exclusively from losing 900 hours this year.
- The pairing up of classes is happening in Virtual School only. In person schools have already experienced reorganization and so no further changes are planned at this time. When the students come back together in face-to-face learning, the students from Virtual School will be supported to reintegrate with classmates who may have had a different experience face to face.





## **Subject Information**

### **French Immersion Programs**

<b>FSL Teacher</b>	<b>English Teacher</b>
French Language	English language
Math	Science
Social Studies (1-6) / Geography & History (Gr.7-8)	Health & Physical Education
Drama (Term 1) / Dance (Term 2)	Music (Term 1) / Visual Arts (Term 2)

### **Extended French Programs**

<b>FSL Teacher</b>	<b>English Teacher</b>
French Language	English language
Social Studies (1-6) / Geography & History (Gr.7-8)	Math
Music (Term 1) / Visual Arts (Term 2)	Science
Drama (Term 1) / Dance (Term 2)	Health & Physical Education

