



Re-opening of Bannockburn PS as a French Immersion Centre Questions and Answers – Updated January 19, 2024

Background

Bannockburn Public School will re-open as a new Elementary French Immersion Centre in September 2024. The school will welcome JK to Grade 3 French Immersion students in the first year, expanding by one grade per year up to and including Grade 6 in September 2027.

The decision to re-open Bannockburn Public School as a French Immersion Centre came out of the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 Program Area Review, which was completed in June 2021. The Review sought to address continued enrolment growth and accommodation pressures in the Yonge-Eglinton area, specifically at Eglinton Junior Public School. John Fisher Junior Public School, currently a JK to Grade 6 French Immersion Centre, will become a dual-track school (English and French Immersion) beginning in September 2022. The northern portion of John Fisher Junior Public School's French Immersion catchment will be absorbed by Bannockburn Public School so that John Fisher Junior Public School can accommodate English program students from Eglinton Junior Public School. Detailed information about the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 Program Area Review can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews/id/166>.

Admission into Bannockburn PS (from September 2024 onward)

Q1. What will the Early French Immersion catchment be for Bannockburn PS?

The general French Immersion catchment for Bannockburn PS will encompass the English school attendance areas of:

- Bedford Park PS
- John Wanless Jr PS
- Ledbury Park E & MS
- John Ross Robertson Jr PS
- Bedford Park PS/Blythwood Jr PS shared attendance area

The exact Early French Immersion catchment could vary from year to year, similar to existing practice. As per TDSB's Operational Procedure PR 597, on-time applicants to French Language programs are guaranteed a spot in a program, but not a particular school. While every effort is made to place students in the school identified as their area's French

Immersion school, this is not always possible. In cases where the number of applications is greater than the number of allotted program spaces in the school, students may be redirected to schools with available program space.

Q2. Who can attend Bannockburn Public School in September 2024?

Students who will be entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2024 who applied on-time to the Early French Immersion program during the application period in November 2023 are eligible for placement at Bannockburn Public School. Placement into the school will be based on the number of applications received and the number of Junior Kindergarten spots available. Per TDSB Operational Procedure PR 597, all students applying on-time for the Early French Immersion program are guaranteed a spot in a program, but not a particular school. For more information on the Early French Immersion program, please visit:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyFrenchImmersion>

Early French Immersion students entering SK to Grade 3 at John Fisher Junior Public School in September 2024 and who reside in the Bedford Park Public School attendance area or the John Wanless Junior Public School attendance area or the Bedford Park Public School/Blythwood Junior Public School shared attendance area will be redirected to Bannockburn Public School for September 2024. An exception will be made for students who have an older sibling in Grades 4 to 6 at John Fisher Junior Public School in September 2024; these students will have the option to attend Bannockburn Public School or remain at John Fisher Junior Public School through to graduation.

Q3. If my child is entering JK in September 2024 but has an older sibling (in Grades 4 to 6) attending John Fisher Jr PS, will my child be able to attend John Fisher Jr PS?

Yes, students in JK through to Grade 3 who have an older sibling attending John Fisher Jr PS in Grades 4 through 6 in September 2024 will be given the option to attend/remain at John Fisher Jr PS through to graduation.

Q4. How many entry classes of French Immersion will Bannockburn PS have once it re-opens?

While the number of Early French Immersion entry spots is reviewed on an annual basis by the Planning and Central French Language Departments, the expectation is that Bannockburn PS will have up to three FDK Immersion classes (this includes Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten students). There might be less than three entry classes in the first year depending on the number of applicants. Increasing the number of entry classes above three will result in multiple portables being required on the site.

Q5. What will the French Immersion pathway be for Early French Immersion students attending Bannockburn PS?

The French Immersion pathway for students attending Bannockburn PS will remain the same as those attending John Fisher Jr PS: Glenview Sr PS for Grade 7 and 8, and then Lawrence Park CI for Grades 9 through 12. This, however, is subject to change as per TDSB's Operational Procedure PR 597.

Q6. If my child is currently attending a French Immersion program at another school, can they apply to attend Bannockburn PS in September 2024?

If a family wishes to attend an Early French Immersion program at a school other than the one designated for their home address, the parents/guardians may apply for Out-of-Area Admission at the requested school. There is no guarantee of placement via the Out-of-Area Admissions process.

If admitted, students may complete the grade range of the school. No transportation will be provided. If the students wish to attend the school at the next level into which the French Pathway feeds, they will be required to apply for Out-of-Area Admission to that school.

Q7. My child is currently attending an English program school. Can I still apply to Bannockburn PS (for Senior Kindergarten to Grade 3 in September 2024)?

When a family wishes to enter the Early French Immersion program late (after the JK entry point), there are two considerations that are carefully measured:

- Available space in the class
- Equivalent academic background in French

Please inquire at the school about available space in the class. If the class is full, the child may not be admitted. If there is space in the class, the next step would be to provide documentation of the model of French instruction that your child has received at their other school. An equivalent academic background would be something equivalent to, or very close to, the model of instruction the students have experienced in the TDSB program you are asking for the child to join.

Transportation

Q8. Will students be bussed to Bannockburn PS for French Immersion?

As per the TDSB Transportation policy, students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 may be eligible for school bus transportation if they live 1.6 km or more away from their home school. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 may be eligible to receive TTC tickets if they live 3.2 km or more away from their home school. Students in French Immersion must meet the distance criteria and be attending the designated French Immersion program based on their home school.

Applications for bussing are usually sent to parents/guardians in May before school begins in September.

Q9. How many busses do you anticipate will be going to Bannockburn PS daily?

At a stable capacity of around 300 students once the JK to Grade 6 program is fully implemented, approximately 4 to 5 busses may be required (depending on the number of students who live within 1.6 km of the school). TDSB's Transportation Department will engage with the community on issues related to bus stop locations and other areas of importance as this process evolves.

Child Care

Q10. Will child care be offered at Bannockburn PS?

In the coming weeks, families will receive information regarding a before and after school program survey to determine their child care needs. The survey will be available during the month of February. It is important that all parents/caregivers complete this to help us better understand community needs for child care at Bannockburn. Please note that completing the survey does not guarantee that a fee-based before and after school program will be offered. If there is enough initial interest at Bannockburn, families will be notified, and a separate registration to determine viability will take place through a third-party licensed before and after school program. Families can connect with TDSB Child Care Services at CCS@tdsb.on.ca or call 416-394-2372 should there be any questions about this process.

Portables

Q11. Does TDSB intend to install portables on the Bannockburn site?

Based on our current projections for Bannockburn PS, no portables should be required through to 2030.

Staffing

Q12. How will Bannockburn PS be staffed?

Bannockburn PS will have a new administrative team, and the Principal will be responsible for hiring staff. These staff will come from the available staff in the system (not necessarily from John Fisher Jr PS).

Q13. Will there be extra Special Education Assistants hired for students with disabilities?

Staffing for Special Education will be considered at all schools where there is a need.