



Re-opening of Bannockburn PS as a French Immersion Centre Questions and Answers – Updated October 2022

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>.

Delayed Re-opening of Bannockburn PS

Q1. Bannockburn PS was originally scheduled to re-open in September 2023. Why is it now being pushed to September 2024?

Since the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 Program Area Review was completed, Facilities staff have undertaken a deeper investigation of the existing building and site conditions with consultants. Unfortunately, that has revealed new deficiencies that need to be addressed. It has been determined that a full replacement of all building systems is required including heating, ventilation, lighting, fire safety, communication and improvements to the site. To accommodate the new systems, the existing hydro and water services must also be upgraded. In addition, delays in the delivery of construction materials and equipment due to supply chain issues across the industry are anticipated as we are currently experiencing these in other renovation/building projects.

Due to the increase in scope of the renovations and the longer supply timelines, staff investigated whether or not the work could be phased to allow for a September 2023 start-

up. Due to health and safety concerns of students and staff on-site during construction, staff determined the date to reopen Bannockburn Public School will be delayed by one year. The new anticipated reopening date for the school is September 1, 2024.

Accommodation at John Fisher Jr PS in September 2023

Q2. What will John Fisher Jr PS' French Immersion catchment be in September 2023?

Would students from Ledbury Park E & MS and John Ross Robertson Jr PS be admitted into John Fisher Jr PS?

The Early French Immersion catchments will remain as they are for the 2023/24 school year. This means that Ledbury Park E & MS and John Ross Robertson Jr PS will remain in the Glen Park PS early French Immersion catchment.

Similar to existing practice, the exact Early French Immersion catchment could vary from year to year. 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.

Q3. Does John Fisher Jr PS have the space to accommodate the French Immersion students who would have otherwise gone to Bannockburn PS in September 2023?

Yes, John Fisher Jr PS has the space to accommodate the French Immersion students who would have otherwise gone to Bannockburn PS in September 2023.

Q4. How many JK French Immersion spots will John Fisher Jr PS be able to accommodate for September 2023?

John Fisher Jr PS should be able to accommodate up to 75 JK students for September 2023. There are currently 45 JK French Immersion students at the school that would be in SK next year for a total of up to 120 FDK French Immersion spots. This would translate into 4 FDK classes. John Fisher Jr PS has a total of 6 fit-up FDK classrooms, two of which would be required for the English program.

Q5. Bannockburn PS was originally scheduled to re-open in September 2023. SK to Grade 3 students attending John Fisher Jr PS that live in the Bedford Park PS and John Wanless Jr PS attendance areas were to be redirected to Bannockburn that year. With the re-opening

now delayed by a year, will the Grade 4 students in September 2024 (previously Grade 3 students in September 2023) still be required to move to Bannockburn PS?

No, Grade 4 French Immersion students at John Fisher Jr PS will remain at John Fisher Jr PS in September 2024. The recommendations are being implemented a year later than what was originally planned; Bannockburn PS will re-open as a JK to Grade 3 French Immersion school in September 2024 now, rather than in September 2023. The school will expand by one grade a year up to Grade 6 in September 2027.

Q6. In the Board decision letter for the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 Program Area Review, the following recommendation was highlighted as not requiring Board approval but supported by TDSB staff: “b) That consideration may be given to Grade 3 French Immersion students at John Fisher Jr PS in September 2023 to remain at John Fisher Jr PS provided there is available space.” Does this recommendation apply to the Grade 3 cohort in September 2024?

Yes, this recommendation would be applied to the Grade 3 cohort in September 2024. Families with Grade 3 students can reach out to the school principal and/or local Superintendent to determine if there is space available to accommodate these students at John Fisher Jr PS that year.

Admission into Bannockburn PS (from September 2024 onward)

Q7. 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.

Q8. Who can attend Bannockburn Public School in September 2024?

Students that will be entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2024 can apply for entry into the Early French Immersion program during the application period, which will open in November 2023. Placement into Bannockburn Public 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.

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 and John Wanless Junior Public School attendance areas will be redirected to Bannockburn Public School that year. 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.

Q9. 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.

Q10. How many entry classes of French Immersion would 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). Increasing this number would result in multiple portables being required on the site.

Q11. What would the French Immersion pathway be for Early French Immersion students attending Bannockburn PS?

The French Immersion pathway for students attending Bannockburn PS would 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.

Q12. 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.

Q13. 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

Q14. 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.

Q15. 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

Q16. Would child care be offered at Bannockburn PS?

TDSB Child Care Services will develop a survey to better understand the before- and after-school program needs of families attending Bannockburn PS. More information about this process will be available in the fall of 2023.

Portables

Q17. 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

Q18. How will Bannockburn PS be staffed?

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

Q19. Will there be extra Special Education Assistants hired for students with disabilities?

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