



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Thank you for your interest in the French Immersion program in the Langley School District. The Immersion program is open to all students, as a part of the public school system. If your child was not enrolled in French Immersion Kindergarten, there may still be a possibility for him or her to enter Early Immersion for the Grade 1 year. If you are considering this option, this letter is intended to help you make an informed choice for the best interests of your child.

The implementation of Full Day Kindergarten means that students entering the French Immersion program in their Grade 1 year will have had approximately 880 fewer hours of French language exposure than their peers who started the year before. This could present significant challenges for students, parents and educators.

It is our goal to ensure a successful start for your child in a new language, and we have concerns that not all children will be suitable candidates at this entry point. Therefore, the District has established a process to allow parents to become more informed about the measures for success, and for educators to have input.

Educators and parents need to consider the following points when considering successful entry into Grade 1 French Immersion:

- * Does the child enjoy learning? Can you provide some examples? (ie. activities the child finds engaging, his / her favourite aspects of Kindergarten or pre-school)
- * Does the Kindergarten report card indicate the student's active participation?
- * Does the Kindergarten report card indicate the student's ability to focus and pay attention during class?
- * Is the child exposed to other languages spoken in the home besides English or French?
- * Is there already a French-speaker in the student's home? (ie. a former Immersion student, someone who learned French as an additional language, or a first-language French-speaker)
- * Are there parents or family members who will be available and willing to provide additional learning support to the child?
- * Has the child experienced any language-learning delays or challenges?

We would like all children to feel positive about their school experience, especially in the formative primary years. In the event that your child is placed into the Grade 1 Immersion program and it is not an appropriate placement as determined by the school staff, it may be recommended that your child return to the English program. Depending on class sizes in the French Immersion and catchment schools, your child may have to change schools when re-entering the English program. Parents still interested in pursuing the French program could consider entry into the Late Immersion Program at Grade 6.

More information on French Immersion programs and registration can be found on the School District #35 website: <http://www.sd35.bc.ca>. You can also contact the School District by telephone at (604) 534-7891.

Thank you once again for your interest in the Early Immersion Program in Langley School District.