

Common Questions

What are the benefits of learning a second language?

- Learning a second language develops your child's listening and learning skills as well as their self-discipline
- It increases their cognitive abilities by helping them to become more flexible thinkers.
- It enhances their knowledge of and their ability to communicate in their first language.
- It makes learning a third and fourth language easier.
- It can provide opportunities for future employment or career advancement.

What about the students' academic achievements?

- Research shows there are NO detrimental effects on academic performance in any subject area despite learning in a new language.
- Students gain larger English vocabulary as French words are often similar to English words.
- Late French Immersion students follow the same curriculum as they would in the English-track program; students are introduced to the same concepts/curriculum for Math, Science, Social Studies, etc. with supports and simplified vocabulary as appropriate.
- Since LFI is an intensive language acquisition program, there is a strong emphasis on literacy development. Students can expect to spend a lot of time speaking, listening, reading, and writing in their new language.

What will happen to my child's first language?

- Because Late French Immersion is an intensive program that focuses on developing French language acquisition in French Language Arts, formal English Language Arts is currently on hold for the two years of the LFI program. Students will have both English Language Arts and French Language Arts in Grade 8. During their time in the LFI program, we encourage students to continue reading in English at home.

How does Late Immersion compare with Early French Immersion?

- Late French Immersion is not a continuation of Early French Immersion. It is a separate program, offered in addition to Early Immersion, which provides an alternative final entry point for English students who want to become bilingual.
- In Grade 8, the Early and Late Immersion students join together into one program. The two groups become academically cohesive during the secondary years.



Interested in Late French Immersion?

Essential Meeting & Sign Up
Thursday, January 15, 2026
6 p.m. at
Shuswap Middle School

www.sd83.bc.ca



French For Your Child

Following the meeting, a link to an online form will be shared with all families in attendance. This form indicates a family's commitment and intent to register in the program. Completing this short online form is essential for all families interested in registering for Late French Immersion.

The online sign-up form will help us know how many classes there will be. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please check the District and Shuswap Middle School websites for the link to the form. This link becomes live following the meeting for those unable to attend the meeting.

All students interested in the program need to complete the sign-up form. There is no early or priority pre-registration for siblings of students currently enrolled in the French Immersion program. This practice is in keeping with the registration process for other programs.

Late French Immersion Essential Meeting

January 15, 2026 at 6 p.m.
at Shuswap Middle School

Principals, district staff, teachers, and students will present information about Late French Immersion and provide registration information.

- Immersion programs (both Early and Late) are designed for students from any catchment area in SD83.
- Parents need NOT speak French.
- Students are encouraged to stay in the program through Grade 12 in order to attain a high level of bilingualism and to receive a bilingual Dogwood Graduate Certificate.
- Students in the French Immersion program will participate in regular school activities.

Questions?

Please contact:

Rita Tedesco, District Vice-Principal of French Immersion, at
(250) 832-3741

Val Edgell, Principal of Shuswap Middle School at
(250) 832-6031