
HWDSB

French Immersion in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

French Immersion
www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi



2021



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This booklet has been prepared to provide parents with information regarding the French Immersion program at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. It is intended to assist parents in making informed decisions regarding the educational program and development of their child.

HWDSB uses a system-wide application process for Grade 1 entry into French Immersion.

A Grade 1 system wide application process for entry to French Immersion allows for program placement of students, monitoring of accommodations, balance of enrolment, and long term stability of the French Immersion program.

We guarantee an offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) to all applicants. However, applicants will not receive transportation if placed at a school that is not their home French Immersion school.

Please take note of the important dates:

Monday, November 29, 2021	Application process opens for Senior Kindergarten students
Sunday, January 23, 2022	Deadline for applications
Friday, February 25, 2022	Program location offered to Parent/Guardian
Friday, March 11, 2022	Deadline for program acceptance and registration

Please note: *Families with an older sibling currently in French Immersion are still required to complete an online application for the new student.*

FRENCH IMMERSION AT HWDSB

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board offers French Immersion programming beginning in Grade 1. It is designed to provide English-speaking children with opportunities to become skilled speaking in French as well as English. Upon graduation from secondary school, the student is expected to be proficient in French. The curriculum for subjects taught in French is the same as in the English program.

An immersion program means that French is not only the medium in which subjects are taught, but it is also the means of communication between students and the teacher in the classroom and, as much as possible, beyond the classroom. *Research and experience show that early immersion leads to higher fluency in French while maintaining levels of competency in English and math.*

AIM OF FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

The goal of French Immersion is to develop students' proficiency in French while building mastery of English – that is, not to replace a first language with an additional one but to develop proficient communication skills in both.

The aim of the French Immersion program at HWDSB is to:

- provide a quality educational program that meets the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum, in both elementary and secondary.

Goals

- Use French to communicate and interact effectively in a variety of social settings;
- Learn about Canada and its two official languages and cultures;
- Appreciate and acknowledge how the global community is connected;
- Help students be responsible for their own learning, as they work independently and in groups;
- Use effective language learning strategies; and
- Become lifelong language learners for personal growth and for active participation as world citizens.

By the end of the four-year program in secondary school, students will:

Be able to follow their pathway (Apprenticeship, College, Community Living, University and Work) with the benefit of French as a Second Language.

ELEMENTARY FRENCH IMMERSION MODEL

French Immersion requires that French must be the language of instruction for a minimum of 50 per cent of the total instructional time and provide a minimum of 3,800 hours of French instruction by the end of grade 8. At HWDSB, we strive to offer more than the minimum requirement each year from grades 1 to 6. In grades 7 and 8, 50 to 60 per cent of the program is taught in French.

Grade	Percentage taught in French	Subjects Taught in French
Grade 1	68 - 85% French Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French ▪ Math ▪ Science ▪ Social Studies <p><i>Also could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art ▪ Drama ▪ Music ▪ Physical Education/ Health
Grades 2 - 3	68 - 80% French Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French ▪ Math ▪ Science ▪ Social Studies ▪ Art ▪ Drama <p><i>Also could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Music ▪ Physical Education/ Health
Grades 4 - 6	68 - 80% French Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French ▪ Math ▪ Science ▪ Social Studies <p><i>Also could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art ▪ Drama ▪ Music ▪ Physical Education/ Health
Grades 7 - 8	50 - 60% French Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French ▪ Math History/Geography ▪ Science <p><i>Other subjects may be taught in French depending on staffing and timetabling schedule</i></p>

CERTIFICATE OF FRENCH IMMERSION

School boards award the Certificate of French Immersion attached to the student transcript. It provides evidence of a student's degree of involvement in the French Immersion program at the secondary level.

The Certificate of French Immersion is awarded to students who:

- Successfully complete the sequence of four courses in French Language and a minimum of six courses in other subjects taught in French, at the secondary school level.

SECONDARY FRENCH IMMERSION MODEL

This program is offered at Westdale and Sherwood Secondary schools. The following courses can be offered depending on student needs and interests.

- French Language
- Mathematics
- History
- Science
- Geography
- French for Business
- Co-op (French Language placement)
- Physical Education
- Dramatic Arts
- Creative Writing
- Media Civics and Careers
- Visual Arts
- Psychology/Sociology/Anthropology
- Family Studies

SUPPORT SERVICES

Enrichment and remedial assistance may be provided in English or in French by:

- A classroom teacher;
- An English-speaking Learning Resource Teacher;
- A bilingual Learning Resource Teacher (where available).

Students whose needs require special assistance beyond the Learning Resource Teacher have access to:

- The special education services of the school, as determined by the school.
- Psychological services, as provided by the staff of the Department of Psychological Services.
- Special education programs, as recommended by an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC). If the recommendation is for a self-contained class (e.g., gifted), then this class is offered in English only.

FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FASLAC)

The French as a Second Language Advisory Committee provides advice and presents recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding matters related to programs and services that support the French as a Second Language Program. It consists of:

Voting members:

- Elementary and secondary parents from both the French Immersion and Core French Programs.
- Community representation from organizations such as, Canadian Parents for French, Mohawk College or McMaster University.

HWDSB Resource Staff:

- Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Learning Services Consultant
- Elementary and Secondary School Administrator
- Up to Two Trustees
- Parent Involvement Committee Representative
- Rural Schools Representative
- Elementary and Secondary School Teacher
- Secondary School Student

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who may enroll?

Any student entering Grade 1 at HWDSB. For a full list of schools, go to www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi

2. Should my child be in French Immersion?

The French Immersion program is designed for all students who do not speak French at home, regardless of experiences, stages of development, and/or learning needs.

3. Will my child's English-language skills suffer in a French Immersion program?

Your child may already understand English and communicate in English outside the classroom. English vocabulary and speech patterns will continue to develop at a normal pace. Most skills and knowledge acquired in the French classroom transfer readily to English. Most students are at the same level of development in English as their peers by the time they reach Grade 5.

4. How will I communicate with the school?

All communication with parents is in English. Teachers will communicate a child's progress to parents through report cards, interviews, curriculum nights, informal written notes, student planners, phone calls, etc. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's progress at any time with the teacher.

5. Is transportation provided?

Transportation for French Immersion is offered to students whose in-catchment school exceeds the walking distances of:

Elementary School	Grades 1-8	1.6 kms
Secondary School	Grades 9-12	3.2 kms

Grade 1 to 6 – *Black and Yellow Buses with community stops.*

A community stop is a common area for student pick-up and drop-off which may include, but are not limited to: parks, schools and places of worship.

Grade 7 and 8 – HSR (unless there is an existing route that accommodates these students)

Grade 9 to 12 – HSR.

6. What are the parents' responsibilities?

Parents' responsibilities are similar to the responsibilities that any parent has when enrolling their child in school. By enrolling their child in the French Immersion program, parents might face certain additional responsibilities. Parents are cautioned not to exert pressure on the child to 'perform in French' at home. Children accept that their classroom experience is in French, and that the rest of their life at home with their family or with their friends is in English or, possibly, another language. As well, we encourage parents to not ask their child for a word-by-word translation of texts, but to ask about the global meaning. Translations are very difficult to do, even for adults who are fluently bilingual.

7. *If I do not understand much French, how can I help my child?*

If your child has homework, provide the encouragement and the resources necessary, just as you would if your child were working in English. Parents can play an important role in ensuring their child's success by:

- showing an interest in the program and in their child's progress;
- encouraging and supporting their child's efforts;
- participating wherever possible in the total life of the school;
- providing additional opportunities for exposure to French language and culture beyond the classroom, such as choosing one or two TV programs with which their child is familiar and watching them on the French channel;
- participating in French community events;
- reading stories to their child in English and listening to them read aloud in French and in English; and
- having their child explain what they have read. This often helps consolidate their own French comprehension and encourages their child to extract the global meaning of a passage rather than dwelling on the fact that they do not understand one small word. If that one small word keeps reappearing in every sentence and is key to understanding, they may need to consult a dictionary, but this should not occur very often. It is normal not to understand every word.

FRENCH IMMERSION LOCATIONS

2021-22

Secondary Schools:

Westdale Secondary School

700 Main Street West, Hamilton
(Gr. 9-12)
Phone: 905.522.1387

Sherwood Secondary School

25 High Street, Hamilton
(Gr. 9-11)
Phone: 905.383.3377

For further information please contact the principals of these schools or the French as a Second Language (FSL) Consultant at 905.527.5092 x2653.

Elementary Schools:

Family of Schools - WESTDALE

Bennetto (Gr. 1-6)

47 Simcoe Street East, Hamilton
Phone: 905.528.6341

Cootes Paradise (Gr. 1-5)

900 King Street West, Hamilton
Phone: 905.522.0601

Dalewood (Gr. 6-8)

1150 Main Street West, Hamilton
Phone: 905.528.8631

Dundana (Gr. 1-5)

23 Dundana Avenue, Dundas
Phone: 905.628.2622

Earl Kitchener (Gr. 1-5)

300 Dundurn St. South, Hamilton
Phone: 905.528.0223

Guy Brown (Gr. 1-8)

55 Braeheid Avenue, Waterdown
Phone: 905.689.8254

Mary Hopkins (Gr. 1-5)

1175 Main Street East, Hamilton
Phone: 905.689.7905

Ryerson (Gr. 6-8)

222 Ryerson Street, Hamilton
Phone: 905.528.7975

Sir William Osler (Gr. 6-8)

330 Governor's Road, Dundas
Phone: 905.628.1588

Family of Schools - SHERWOOD

A.M. Cunningham (Gr. 1-5)

100 Wexford Ave. South, Hamilton
Phone: 905.544.7771

Eastdale Elementary School

(Gr. 1-8)
275 Lincoln Road, Stoney Creek,
Phone: 905.662.4363

École Élémentaire Michaele Jean

(Gr. 1-8)
2121 #56 Highway, Binbrook
Phone: 905.692.5436

Frank Panabaker (Gr. 1-8)

295 Nakoma Road, Ancaster
Phone: 905.648.4439

Lawfield (Gr. 1-8)

45 Berko Avenue, Hamilton
Phone: 905.387.0062

Norwood Park (Gr. 1-8)

165 Terrace Drive, Hamilton
Phone: 905.575.9808

Parkdale Elementary School

(Gr. 1-5)
139 Parkdale Avenue North, Hamilton,
Phone: 905.545.6216

W. H. Ballard Elementary School

(Gr. 6-8)
801 Dunsmore Road, Hamilton
Phone: 905.547.1689

HWDSB

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 0B9
Telephone: 905-527-5092

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