



HWDSB

French Immersion in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

French Immersion
www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi

curiosity • creativity • possibility



2022

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.

