



French Immersion Kindergarten

Overview

French Immersion Kindergarten is the steppingstone into the immersion program and is an excellent introduction to the French language. At École Riverview School French Immersion Kindergarten is offered as a half day program, Monday through Friday, from September to June. Families have the option to choose between a morning or afternoon class, subject to availability.

Academics

Numeracy

In numeracy, students will learn about numbers sense, patterns, and shapes (in French). All areas of math will be taught with a hands-on approach, using manipulatives and other learning materials to enhance comprehension. A variety of different approaches will be used to meet the needs of individual students. Math is a daily part of the French Immersion Kindergarten program.



Literacy



Students in French Immersion Kindergarten will learn to recognize all uppercase and lowercase letters of the French alphabet and their corresponding sounds. They will be immersed in the French language and will begin to develop an understanding of the language with the help of visual cues from the teacher. They will gradually increase their French vocabulary and learn to communicate in French. Literacy is a strong focus in the French Immersion Kindergarten program, with all subject areas being taught in French.

Science

Students will learn to identify and differentiate between French colours. They will also learn about trees and the changing seasons. They will experiment with different materials and learn how to make paper. Science is always an exciting and hands-on part of Kindergarten.

Social Studies

In Social Studies the students will learn about their identity and what make them unique. They will learn about what it means to be a responsible and respectful student, as well as how to build positive relationships with their peers.



Art

Creating art projects is an important part of the French Immersion Kindergarten. Art allows the students to explore and embrace their creativity. They will be exposed to many different materials to create art pieces. Many students use art to express themselves and to demonstrate their understanding. We have an art center in the classroom that is a very popular station during exploration time.

Physical Education / Health

The students will have the opportunity to play in the gym twice per cycle. Under the supervision of their classroom teacher, the students will learn different skills and participate in organized games and activities. They will also have opportunities to independently explore different equipment during free play. In Health, the students will learn about how to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle.



Social Emotional Development



An important part of French Immersion Kindergarten is learning to connect and interact with peers in a positive and fun way. A portion of every day is dedicated to unstructured exploration time. Students are given the opportunities to choose between various stations or play areas where they learn about kindness, sharing, collaborating, self-regulation, and problem-solving.

Fine Motor

Kindergarten students are still mastering their fine motor skills. Activities such as printing, cutting, gluing, building, sand table, water table, and crafts are all a very regular part of the French Immersion Kindergarten program.



Other Activities



Library

Once per cycle the students have access to the school's library. They will be able to explore a variety of texts and select books to take home.

Reading Buddies

Beginning in January, the French Immersion Kindergarten students pair up with students from Grades 4-6. Once per cycle, the Grade 4-6 students visit our classroom and spend about 30 minutes reading to their reading partners. This is a wonderful time that allows the students to connect with older peers.



Fit Bits

Beginning in February, the Grade 6 students exercise their leadership skills by taking the young Kindergarten students to the gym once per cycle. Under the supervision of Mme Wolfe, the Grade 6 students lead the younger students in a series of games and activities.

Outdoor Play

Playing outdoors is a regular part of the French Immersion Kindergarten program. When weather permits, the students are given opportunities to play outside on the play structure or in the school field.

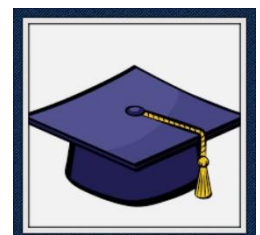


Field Trip

In June the Kindergarten students participate in a full day field trip. The Assiniboine Zoo or Morning Sound Farm are popular destinations. This is always a very exciting event for the students!

End of Year Celebration

An end of year celebration is held at the end of June. Families are invited to attend a graduation ceremony in the gym, followed by refreshments. This is beautiful way to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and a nice farewell as the students prepare to enter Grade 1.



Frequently Asked Questions

We don't speak French and won't be able to do work at home. Will my child still be successful in French Immersion?

Yes! The majority of families are not fluent in French. French Immersion Kindergarten is an introduction to the French language with most students having no background in French. Your child will be given the opportunities and tools necessary to succeed in the French Immersion program.

What percentage of the day is taught in French?

There is no English Language Arts in French Immersion Kindergarten. All subjects are taught in French.

How will my child understand what the teacher is saying?

French Immersion Kindergarten is the introduction to the immersion program. While all instruction is done in French, this is a slow and gradual process. The teacher will use visual aids, cues and movements to promote understanding. Much of the day is repetition and the students become very familiar with French instruction and are able to understand directives easily over time. Important or sensitive subject matter is conducted in English to ensure understanding.

Can my child attend two days per week?

French Immersion Kindergarten is a full-time (half day) program that runs Monday through Friday, from September to June. Full-time attendance is required for the student to be successful in the program.

How many students will be in the class?

Class sizes fluctuate yearly. It is difficult to know how many students will be in each class as registration opens in February and remains open until the start of the school year.

Is there childcare available for before and after Kindergarten?

École Riverview School does not have a daycare on the premises. There are childcare facilities in the neighbourhood that offer a walking program. Please reach out to them directly for more information.

Is snack provided?

No. Families are asked to send a small snack and water bottle with their child daily.

If my child is struggling in the French Immersion program, can they move to the English program?

Once enrolled in French Immersion Kindergarten, it is recommended that the student remain in the program until year end. All efforts and accommodations will be made to help the student embrace and thrive in the immersion program. There is the option of switching to the English program for Grade 1. The teacher can provide guidance with this decision.

Will my child be behind in English Language Arts when they reach Grade 1?

It is recommended that families and caregivers work on English literacy at home so that students have a good foundation in both English and French when they move on to Grade 1. Students are assessed regularly at all grade levels. Accommodations and program supports are available to help each student reach their full potential.