

École Sir William Osler FAQ Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions about French Immersion Programming



We do not speak French. How will we be able to help our child with homework as our child gets older?

French Immersion is designed for children whose families do not speak French. Teachers understand that parents are usually not able to help with homework at home and ensure that students clearly understand what to do before sending work home. Parents are always encouraged to speak with their child's teacher if they have any questions about homework, however parents are not expected to assist with homework.

How can we support our child if we do not speak French?

Even if you do not speak French, there are many ways to support your child and enrich their education! It is always important to read with your child in your native language every day, and listen to your child as he/she learns to read in French. Developing a French library at home, or borrowing French reading materials from the library is a great way to promote literacy! Playing card games, board games and other math games will support your child's developing numeracy skills. Encouraging your child to watch familiar television shows or children's movies in French will also help develop their listening comprehension of French. Visiting museums, shops and other local French areas will encourage your child's development of French.

Are the report cards written in French?

All written communication with parents is in English, including the Manitoba provincial report card.

What is the difference between a French Milieu and a Dual Track French Immersion school?

École Sir William Osler is a French Milieu, which means that the French Immersion program is the only program offered. All teachers and educational assistants speak in French, and all activities are conducted in French. French is heard in all areas of the school, including the hallways, gym, library, Makerspace room, recess, assemblies and during school announcements.

In a Dual Track French Immersion school, the school offers both the regular English program and the French Immersion program. Families choose one program or the other. Not all teachers in the building speak French, and whole school events (such as assemblies or presentations) may be conducted in English.

Do the teachers speak English?

Our teachers are fluently bilingual, and speak both English and French. Interpreters may be available if families are more comfortable in another language.

How will my child learn? What if my child does not understand?

Teachers speak mostly in French and use a variety of strategies to ensure students understand what they are learning. In Early Years, children learn French vocabulary through fun games, songs, chants and stories. Concrete materials, visuals or pictures are used to reinforce new vocabulary. Children learn actively through hands-on activities, movement and practice. Young children absorb language easily, and often have so much fun they do not even realize how much they are learning!

What if my child needs extra help?

At times, students may require additional support. At École Sir William Osler, we have a French special education and resource teacher, a French reading recovery teacher and a French reading clinician. We also have access to a Speech and Language pathologist, a school psychologist, a school social worker and an audiologist. If you think your child may require additional support, please speak with the school principal when you register your child.

Will my child learn to read and write in English?

Yes. Beginning in grade one, students receive approximately one hour of English Language Arts instruction per day. The English Language Arts curriculum includes: reading, writing, listening, speaking, representing and viewing.

What if my child did not attend French Immersion Nursery? Will they be behind?

Children are able to enter our French Immersion program in Nursery, Kindergarten or Grade 1. Typically, children quickly catch up to their peers and children enjoy assisting each other! Additional support is available, if needed.

We do not speak English at home. Will this affect our child's progress?

Speaking English is not a requirement for success in a French Immersion program. Many children who speak another language at home are enrolled in the French Immersion Program. Often knowing an additional language helps in learning French. The more languages children know, the more opportunities they may have! We always encourage parents to continue communicating with their child in their native language. This is a wonderful opportunity!

Are there extra-curricular opportunities offered as well?

Students have opportunities for after school extra-curricular events as they become older. Our older students may participate in our "Mad Science" classes, running club or skating club, to name a few.

Special activities, assemblies or performances are offered regularly throughout the school year for all students. Some activities are: our Spirit Weeks, our "J'aime lire" ("I Love to Read") activities and guests, our Year End Picnic, our Kids' Day field day, school field trips and special French performers.



Other questions? Need more information? Please feel free to drop by our school office, or call 204-488-3569 to book an appointment to discuss your questions with Mme Ostermann, the school principal. Families may also request a private school tour. Please contact the school to reserve a time.