

1. École Bonnycastle School

K - 4 English
K - 4 French Immersion
1100 Chancellor Dr.
Winnipeg | MB | R3T 4W8
P: 204.261.9400
F: 204.269.3797

2. École Charleswood School

6 - 8 English
5 - 8 French Immersion
505 Oakdale Dr.
Winnipeg | MB | R3R 0Z9
P: 204.888.9332
F: 204.896.3860

3. École Crane

K - 4 French Immersion
888 Crane Ave.
Winnipeg | MB | R3T 1T9
P: 204.453.0539
F: 204.477.0783

4. École Dieppe

K - 4 French Immersion
530 Dieppe Rd.
Winnipeg | MB | R3R 1C4
P: 204.889.1034
F: 204.889.2430

**5. École secondaire
Oak Park High School**

9 - 12 English
9 - 12 French Immersion
820 Charleswood Rd.
Winnipeg | MB | R3R 1K6
P: 204.895.7221
F: 204.895.8889

6. École St. Avila

K - 6 French Immersion
633 Patricia Ave.
Winnipeg | MB | R3T 3A8
P: 204.269.5677
F: 204.269.3759

7. École South Pointe School

K - 8 English
K - 8 French Immersion
615 Kirkbridge Dr.
Winnipeg | MB | R3Y 0N1
P: 204.594.4434
F: 204.275.3605

8. École Tuxedo Park

K - 4 French Immersion
2300 Corydon Ave.
Winnipeg | MB | R3P 0N6
P: 204.889.3602
F: 204.889.3609

**9. École Van Walleghem
School**

K - 8 English
K - 8 French Immersion
1 Princemere Rd.
Winnipeg | MB | R3P 1K9
P: 204.489.0995
F: 204.489.3792

**10. Institut collégial Vincent
Massey Collegiate**

9 - 12 English
9 - 12 French Immersion
975 Dowker Ave.
Winnipeg | MB | R3T 1R7
P: 204.453.8023
F: 204.284.0448

11. École Viscount Alexander

5 - 8 French Immersion
810 Waterford Ave.
Winnipeg | MB | R3T 1G7
P: 204.452.8945
F: 204.474.5131

French Immersion



A handbook for parents of French Immersion children

Visit our divisional website at: www.pembinatrails.ca

Please refer to the Welcome to Kindergarten brochure for information about general child development in kindergarten.

Talking about French Immersion ...

“Being bilingual is like having a gift that will last me the rest of my life and no one can take it away from me, ever.”

- Nikki, The University of Winnipeg

“Every language is a new way of thinking. To know more than one language is to be able to think in more than one way.”

- Dr. Brent, Physician

“Being bilingual is a bonus item to add to my resume.”

- Mark, Grade 12 Student

“There are many practical reasons why a second language is needed in the world today but one of the best is that it improves the way you think about yourself.”

- Miranda, Immersion Student

“French Immersion is unique in the way it naturally integrates the development of academic skills, attitudes to openness and respect, in addition to marketable career skills.”

- Caterina, Teacher

“I’m sure that French Immersion has given our daughter more confidence and that it will be a good investment in her future, whether or not she ever uses it in her job.”

- Carole, Immersion Mother

Where to Find More Information

Pembina Trails School Division 204.488.1757

181 Henlow Bay, Winnipeg, MB
www.pembinatrails.ca

La Bibliothèque de Saint-Boniface 204.986.4331

131 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB
*Borrow French books/games
*Ask staff to recommend items

Canadian Parents for French/Manitoba 204.222.6537

475 Provender Blvd., Winnipeg, MB
*Opportunities for language development

Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain 204.233.8972

340 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB
*For art, dance, theatre lessons and shows

Alliance Française 204.477.1515

934 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, MB
*Parents: borrow movies, take a cooking class

Tourisme Riel 204.233.8343

219 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB
*Culture and attractions (www.tourismeriel.com)

Université de Saint-Boniface 204.235.4400

200 Cathédrale Ave., Winnipeg, MB
*Summer camps

Families Can Help ...

- Support your child as a learner
- Read with your child in English or the language spoken at home
- Communicate with the teacher about your child's progress
- Use French books, DVD's and software (public library)
- Enjoy French films, plays and TV programs with your child
- Encourage networking with other French Immersion students
- Visit some French language websites with your child
- Provide French language experiences outside the classroom
- Encourage your child and ask questions
- Problem solve and help your child in the language used at home
- Celebrate your child's effort, progress and achievements
- Praise effort and perseverance in homework, projects and language learning

Fun things to do in French

- Visit the French public library in St. Boniface
- Borrow French books/DVD's
- Play French and bilingual games/download French apps
- Enrol in French summer camps
- Cook French meals and go to French restaurants/cafés
- Take walking tours of local French communities and attend their celebrations and festivities
- Go to the International Children's Festival in French
- Visit and participate in activities at the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, e.g. Festival du Voyageur
- Attend French theatre and cinema
- Participate in school exchange programs
- Visit the St. Boniface Museum
- Visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Explore National Parks and historic sites

What is French Immersion?

French Immersion is:

- Designed for children whose first language is not French
- Open to all children registering for kindergarten or grade one
- A gentle, natural and holistic approach to language acquisition
- An effective way for children to become fluent in both French and English while achieving all the educational and social objectives of the English instruction program
- A program which fosters an appreciation and an acceptance of cultural diversity
- A door to the future, creating opportunities for personal growth, travel and careers
- Supports brain research which shows that learning languages is something children know how to do innately
- One of Manitoba's official school programs



What do the Children Learn?



- Mastery of the English language
- Curricular outcomes that mirror those of the English program
- Canada's official language(s)
- Appreciation and acceptance of cultural diversity
- Academic, personal, social and career skills
- Facility for learning other languages
- Creative, divergent and flexibility in thinking
- Increased communication skills and broader citizenship education
- Ability to navigate/switch between two cultures and languages
- Insights into themselves as learners

What do they gain?

The children gain the ability to step outside the intellectual parameters of their own language and culture.

Dual track schools

École Bonnycastle School
1100 Chancellor Dr.

K - 4 (English)
K - 4 (French Imm.)
204.261.9400

École South Pointe School
615 Kirkbridge Dr.

K - 8 (English)
K - 8 (French Imm.)
204.594.4434

École Van Wallegghem School
1 Princemere Rd.

K - 8 (English)
K - 8 (French Imm.)
204.489.0995

École Charleswood School
505 Oakdale Dr.

6 - 8 (English)
5 - 8 (French Imm.)
204.889.9332

École secondaire Oak Park High School
820 Charleswood Rd.

9 - 12 (English)
9 - 12 (French Imm.)
204.895.7221

Institut collégial Vincent Massey Collegiate
975 Dowker Ave.

9 - 12 (English)
9 - 12 (French Imm.)
204.453.8023



Families Wonder ...

Students typically enter French Immersion in kindergarten or grade one.

Single track schools

École Crane
888 Crane Ave.

K - 4
204.453.0539

École Dieppe
530 Dieppe Rd.

K - 4
204.889.1034

École St. Avila
633 Patricia Ave.

K - 6
204.269.5677

École Tuxedo Park
2300 Corydon Ave.

K - 4
204.889.3602

École Viscount Alexander
810 Waterford Ave.

5 - 8
204.452.8945

Parents and Caregivers

French Immersion begins with a period of concentration on French language development. This provides the students sufficient understanding of French in order to learn to speak, read and study other subjects such as Math, Science and Social Studies taught in French.

Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 7	Grades 9 - 12
	Reading in English is introduced	Reading in French is introduced	Options are introduced	14 French credits required for a provincial certificate
100%	75 - 80 %	75 - 80%	50 - 80%	50 - 80%

*All percentages reflect the amount of studies done in the French language.



Families Wonder ...

Does my child need a background in French to enrol in the Immersion program?

No. The program is designed for children whose first language is not French and who have little or no knowledge of French prior to entering the program. Very few enter with prior knowledge of French; the vast majority of children have no experience at all with the French language when they enter.

What about the first days in the Immersion program?

After a brief transition period, teachers in the Immersion program constantly use French unless there is an emergency or the need for emotional support. The children, however, continue to speak in their home language. From the very first day, children's security and comfort are a priority. During the first few days the students generally do not focus on the fact that the teacher is not speaking English. Especially at the beginning, children are constantly encouraged to be aware of not only the spoken word but also the teacher's body language, facial expressions and actions. Parents report that their children seem surprisingly comfortable right from the start. A positive attitude and an optimistic outlook for this new experience is the best way to prepare your child for French kindergarten.

How will I know if French Immersion is working?

Your best advisor is the classroom teacher. Working with your child every day, the teacher will have information on issues which may arise and will be able to suggest help as needed. When necessary, individual education plans to address the needs of the child are created in consultation and collaboration with the teacher, student services and parents.

How will my child handle learning a new language at such a young age?

Children who begin French Immersion in kindergarten already speak a home language. They are learning French a few years after they have already mastered much of the vocabulary and syntax of their first language. Knowledge and skill transfers from a child's first language to support their learning a second or third language.

My child speaks neither English nor French. How will my child cope in learning both languages at once?

Research shows that the top two criteria for children's success in literacy are: (1) children who engage in their home language through listening, speaking, being read to and thinking critically to solve problems and, (2) children who feel like they belong. Parents can help by continuing to communicate in the home language through reading, speaking and problem solving. Language and thinking skills learned in a home language will transfer to other languages. Parents can also play a supportive and participatory role in their child's school activities.

Will my child lose English skills/fall behind?

Research on this question is both voluminous and unequivocal. Studies have shown that by the end of the elementary grades, Immersion students generally perform as well as, and may even surpass, comparable non-Immersion students in English, Math and Science. During their initial years in the program, some Immersion students may be slightly behind non-Immersion students in English Language Arts; however most catch up by the end of the third grade. In fact, reports show that Immersion actually enhances a child's ability in their first language. A number of national and international reports have demonstrated that by the fifth year of an Immersion program, students outperform all comparison groups and remain high academic achievers throughout their schooling in all areas of English Language Arts, Math and Science.

What about help for struggling learners?

Immersion schools have bilingual student services teachers who help children with learning difficulties, whether academic or behavioural in nature. Research shows that Immersion students with a variety of difficulties will do as well academically as they would in an English language program, provided they receive appropriate assistance. Children learn at different rates, and in different ways regardless of their program.

How can I help with homework if I don't speak French?

Most parents of Immersion students do not speak French, so most of the help at home will be in the language of the home. Parents can help with Math, writing and reading in their first language. Answering questions, explaining concepts and showing children how to study and be curious will enhance learning in both languages. The program assumes that the family language is not French and teachers take this into account when they send notices home or assign homework. The language of communication between home and school is English.