

## 2011/12 French Immersion Registration

Monday, November 1, 2010	Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 17	District French Immersion Information Session for Parents held at 7:00 p.m. at Tupper Secondary School (419 E. 24 <sup>th</sup> Ave.), in the Auditorium.
Monday, January 10, 2011	Information sessions held at 7:00 p.m. at all Elementary French Immersion sites including Late French Immersion. Note following two exceptions: 1. Douglas Annex will hold its session on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no information session at Sir James Douglas (French Immersion program is Grades 4 – 7). 2. Jules Quesnel and Queen Elizabeth Annex will hold a common information session at Queen Elizabeth Annex.
Monday, January 31	Registration closes at 3:00 p.m.
Week of February 1	If applicable, an in-catchment draw will be held for French Immersion Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 6 Late Immersion. Schools send out French Immersion letters to parents.
Week of February 7	Families receive notification in writing of their status: an offer of a space in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 6 Late Immersion or the child's position on the school waitlist.
Tuesday, February 15	Families have until 3:00 p.m. to confirm their acceptance of the space in FI Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 6 Late Immersion.
Wednesday, February 16	French Immersion schools to inform English catchment schools of accepted French Immersion students in FI Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 6 Late French Immersion and that these students will forfeit their spot at any other school.
Wednesday, February 16	Unclaimed spaces are offered to those on school in-catchment French Immersion waitlists.
Monday, April 4	District draw held for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Late Immersion Grade 6 registrants who indicated on the registration form their willingness to consider an alternate French Immersion school.
Friday, Sept 16	Grade 6 Late French Immersion and District French Immersion Kindergarten and Grade 1 waitlists are dissolved.
Friday, Sept 30, 2011	Grade 1 waitlists are dissolved.
Friday, June 28, 2012	Kindergarten waitlists are dissolved

# French Immersion

## Programs in Vancouver

### 2011/12

**Early and Late French Immersion are programs intended for non-French speaking students who wish to develop a high level of proficiency in both official languages. Students enrolled in French Immersion study the same BC curriculum as students in the regular English program. The major distinction between the regular English program and French Immersion is that the language of instruction and communication in the immersion component is French.**



**VSB** Please refer to the VSB website at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca) for additional 2011/12 French Immersion registration information.



**French Immersion is a program that can offer your child:**

- ☉ A fun, effective and challenging way to learn French at an early age
- ☉ The opportunity to learn the same curriculum as the regular English program, in French
- ☉ An opportunity to participate in rich French cultural learning experiences
- ☉ A French Immersion Grade 12 Dogwood Diploma
- ☉ A bilingual future

*The Vancouver Board of Education offers two immersion options for residents of Vancouver:*

**EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION**

Accepts 5 and 6 year olds at the beginning of their formal schooling.

Generally:

- The BC curriculum is instructed in French from Kindergarten to end of Grade 3.
- From Grades 4-7, 50-80% of the BC curriculum is taught in French.
- From Grades 8-10, 50% of the BC curriculum is taught in French.
- In Grade 11, 25% of the curriculum is taught in French.
- In Grade 12, at least 12.5% of the curriculum is taught in French.

**LATE FRENCH IMMERSION**

Accepts 10 and 11 year olds who have successfully completed Grade 5.

- In Grade 6, 100% of the BC curriculum is taught in French (emphasis is on oral French).
- English Language Arts are re-introduced in Grade 7, while other subjects continue to be taught in French.
- In Grades 8-12, the percentage of instruction in French is as described for Early French Immersion students, above.



**Students in both programs are encouraged to stay in French Immersion through Grade 12 in order to attain a high degree of bilingualism.**

**2011/12 French Immersion Centres**

***Elementary Early Immersion***

\* Douglas Annex (K - 3)  
 (Pupils go to Sir James Douglas for 4-7)  
 7668 Borden Street, V5P 3E1 - 604-713-4885  
<http://douglas-anx.vsb.bc.ca/>

Sir James Douglas (4 - 7)  
 7550 Victoria Drive, V5P 3Z7 - 604-713-4817  
<http://douglas.vsb.bc.ca/>

Hastings (K - 7)  
 2625 Franklin Street, V5K 3W7 - 604-713-5507  
<http://hastings.vsb.bc.ca/>

Henry Hudson (K - 6 / will expand to K - 7)  
 1551 Cypress St. V6J 3L3 - 604-713-5441  
<http://hudson.vsb.bc.ca/>

\* Jules Quesnel (K - 7)  
 3050 Crown Street, V6R 4K9 - 604-713-4577  
<http://quesnel.vsb.bc.ca/>

Kerrisdale (K - 7)  
 5555 Carnarvon St., V6N 1J2 - 604-713-5446  
<http://kerrisdale.vsb.bc.ca/>

Laura Secord (K - 7)  
 2500 Lakewood Dr, V5N 4V1 - 604-713-4996  
<http://secord.vsb.bc.ca/>

\* *Single Immersion Centre*

\* L'École Bilingue (K - 7)  
 1166 West 14th Avenue, V6H 1P6 - 604-713-4585  
<http://lecole-bilingue.vsb.bc.ca/>

Lord Selkirk (K - 6 / will expand to K - 7)  
 1750 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, V5N 2P7 - 604-713-4650  
<http://selkirk.vsb.bc.ca/>

\* Lord Tennyson (K - 7)  
 1936 West 10th Avenue, V6J 2B2 - 604-713-5426  
<http://tennyson.vsb.bc.ca/>

Queen Elizabeth Annex (K - 3)  
 4275 Crown Street, V6S 2K3 - 604-713-5482  
<http://queeneizabeth-anx.vsb.bc.ca/>

Quilchena (K - 7)  
 5300 Maple Street, V6M 3T6 - 604-713-5420  
<http://quilchena.vsb.bc.ca/>

Strathcona (K - 3 (will expand to K-7))  
 592 E. Pender Street, V6A 1V5 - 604-713-4630  
<http://strathcona.vsb.bc.ca/>

Trafalgar (K - 7)  
 4170 Trafalgar Street, V6L 2M5 - 604-713-5475  
<http://trafalgar.vsb.bc.ca/>

***Elementary Late Immersion***

General Gordon (6 - 7)  
 2896 West 6th Avenue, V6K 1X1 - 604-713-5403  
<http://gordon.vsb.bc.ca/>

Laura Secord (6 - 7)  
 2500 Lakewood Dr, V5N 4V1 - 604-713-4996  
<http://secord.vsb.bc.ca/>

***Secondary Immersion***

Sir Winston Churchill  
 7055 Heather Street V6P 3P7 - 604- 713-8189  
<http://churchill.vsb.bc.ca/>

Vancouver Technical Secondary  
 2600 East Broadway, V5M 1Y5 - 604-713-8215  
<http://vantech.vsb.bc.ca/>

Kitsilano Secondary  
 2550 West 10th Avenue, V6K 2J6 - 604-713-8961  
<http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca/>

## **Additional information for parents considering French Immersion**

*Although research has demonstrated that French Immersion is an educational model with universal application, many parents have questions which they need to have answered before enrolling their children into the program.*

### **Q. What can I do to help my child if I don't speak French?**

**A.** *The majority of French Immersion parents don't speak French. But you can still do a lot to support your child in French Immersion! Here's how:*

- ▶ *Concentrate on enriching your child's first language. Read aloud to your child every day in the dominant language of your home. This will develop your child's knowledge and vocabulary, as well as instilling an all important love of language and literature. By fostering a love of books and by motivating your child to seek out books independently, you will lay the ground work for life-long learning in French, English or any other language! It is critical that your child's mother tongue be as rich as possible; **you** have the ability to develop it at home.*
- ▶ *Demonstrate an ongoing interest, participation, and commitment to your child's education.*
- ▶ *Contact the local chapter of Canadian Parents for French (CPF) for ideas on how to seek out ways of reinforcing your child's learning of French outside of school at 604-524-0134 or visit [www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca)*

### **Q. Will my child's English skills suffer, if s/he doesn't receive any formal English instruction before Grade 4?**

**A.** *Research shows that sometime between Grades 4 and 6, Early French Immersion students from English-speaking homes catch up to (and sometimes surpass) the level of English skills of their regular program counterparts. French Immersion students who have English as a second language may or may not need somewhat longer to attain English skills at grade level.*

### **Q. What if my child already speaks two languages?**

**A.** *At least one of these languages must be properly developed for his/her age, in order to provide a solid base from which to learn a third language (French). For many learners, learning a second language facilitates the learning of a third.*

### **Q. What if my child has difficulty in his/her mother tongue?**

**A.** *Research clearly indicates that a well-developed mother tongue is essential to learning a second language. The more fluent a child is in his/her own language, the easier it is to learn another. Simple articulation difficulties however, rarely impair a child's ability to learn another language. If in doubt, consult the principal or Speech and Language specialist at the French Immersion school you are considering.*

## **2011/12 ADMISSION PROCEDURES**

### **EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION**

The most common point of entry is Kindergarten. Students may enter in Grade 1 if space is available. . Registration forms are to be picked up and submitted to the French Immersion elementary school in the applicant's catchment area, beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. To locate your French Immersion catchment school, please go to [www.vsb.bc.ca/schools](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools). Late applicants, please refer to the 2011/12 FAQs.

At the end of the registration period, if there are insufficient spaces to allow for the in-catchment students, a draw will be held for entry at the school the week of February 1st. The in-catchment draw will be supervised by the Principal, parent representatives from the school Parent Advisory Committee and the Canadian Parents for French (CPF).

Completed registrations must be accompanied by verification of the student's original birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of catchment area residency. Children who turn 5 years old by December 31 of the year of entry are eligible to enter Kindergarten.

Priority is given in the following order:

- a) Siblings of students in the French Immersion program at the school. Siblings must be registered by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline or will be placed on the wait list.
- b) Catchment. Priority is given to catchment area students over non catchment students.
- c) Non-Catchment area child
- d) Non-Vancouver residents.



### **LATE FRENCH IMMERSION**

Students in Grade 5 may apply for admission to Grade 6 Immersion. Registration procedures are the same as for the early French Immersion program. In addition, a copy of the most recent Grade 5 report cards and a statement of commitment from the student must be attached. Please note that due to the nature and pace of the program, students will not be admitted to the late French Immersion program after the second week of instruction.

**Kindergarten students NOT born in Canada must register with a parent at the District Reception and Placement Centre. Please refer to our website.**

## French Immersion Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the date for registration for French Immersion (Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 6 Late Immersion) for the 2011/12 school year?**

Registration for 2011/12 will be accepted during office hours (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) between November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Registration is not on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**What happens if I register after the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 deadline?**

Any registration, including siblings, received after the deadline will be added to the end of the waitlist that will be created from the draw. Late applicants will not be considered until after both the school's in-catchment and the district Kindergarten and Grade 1 waitlist have been exhausted.

**When will the draw be held?**

Should a school receive more registrations for Kindergarten or Grade 1 or Grade 6 Late Immersion than the available spaces, an in-catchment school draw will be held the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The draw will be supervised by the principal, parent representatives from the school Parent Advisory Committee, and/or the Canadian Parents for French (CPF).

**Our family has twins. How will this situation be addressed in the draw?**

Where a family has twins, only one ballot will be entered into the draw. If drawn, both children will be offered places in the program.

**When will families be notified about the results of the draw?**

By Friday, February 11, 2011, parents should have received notification by mail of their status: an offer of a space in Kindergarten or Grade 1 or Grade 6 Late Immersion or the child's position on the school waitlist. If you have not been contacted, please call the school administrator.

**Does a family have to formally accept a position, and if so in what time frame?**

Families will have until Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. to confirm their acceptance of the space in Kindergarten or Grade 1 or Grade 6 Late Immersion. After that time unclaimed spaces, or those that later become available, will be offered to those on the waitlist.

**Should I register my child in the regular Kindergarten program while we wait to see if we have space in French Immersion?**

Parents are required to register their child in their regular catchment English school between November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Parents who are not guaranteed a space in French Immersion by early April 2011 are required to confirm registration at their catchment area English school.

**When is the deadline to register a new applicant to Grade 1 Early French Immersion or Grade 6 Late French Immersion?**

New Grade 1 French Immersion applications will be accepted up to the last school day in September unless the Grade 1 applicant is currently registered in a French Immersion program in another district. New Grade 6 Late French Immersion applications will be accepted up to the end of the second week of school. Students will only be enrolled provided there is space in the program.

**Is there any opportunity for a space in another French Immersion school if we are unsuccessful in the draw for our French Immersion catchment school?**

On Monday, April 4, 2011, a second draw will be conducted for French Immersion Kindergarten and Grade 1 French Immersion applicants who indicated on their registration forms that they would be willing to consider an alternate French Immersion school. Students from this district draw will be called should a space become available at a school with no students on its in-catchment waitlist. If your child is successful in obtaining a spot at an alternate school, he/she will retain his/her place on the catchment school's waitlist until the waitlist is dissolved on June 28, 2012 for Kindergarten students and September 30, 2011 for Grade 1 students.

**What happens if a Kindergarten space becomes available at a French Immersion school during the school year?**

The space will first be offered in draw order to families on the in-catchment waitlist who registered within the registration date.

**What happens if a Kindergarten space becomes available at a French Immersion school during the school year and the district Kindergarten waitlist has been dissolved?**

Consideration for the space(s) will be open to new registrants, late registrants, cross-boundary registrants, and to registrants who applied before the January 31, 2011 deadline but previously did not indicate a desire to be placed on the district French Immersion waitlist. Priority consideration will be based on: • in-catchment students; • proximity to the school for non-catchment students; • proximity to the school for non-Vancouver residents

**For how long do waitlists apply?**

Grade 1 waitlists will be dissolved on Friday, September 30, 2011.

Grade 6 Late Immersion waitlists will be dissolved at the end of the second school week in September.

In-catchment Kindergarten waitlists will be dissolved on Friday, June 28, 2012. Families still on a school's 2010/11 Kindergarten waitlist need to reapply within the application period (November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011) to their French Immersion in-catchment school for Grade 1.

District Kindergarten and Grade 1 waitlists will be dissolved by Friday, September 16, 2010. After September 16, if a school has spaces, this information will be posted on the website. Parents are to contact directly the school.

**If I am going to be moving to Vancouver, can I register for the French Immersion catchment school where I intend to live?**

No. You must be a resident in the catchment area at the time of registration (November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011) in order to apply for a space for September 2011.

**How do I find out in which catchment area I live?**

If you go to the Vancouver School Board website [School Location Search by Postal Code](#) you will be able to look up your catchment area through a link from the French Immersion information section.

**Can I apply cross-boundary to another school after the registration deadline?**

Parents may apply cross-boundary to another school, but these applications will only be considered after all in-catchment applicants have been placed and the process outlined in the following question: ***When is the deadline to register a new applicant to Grade 1 Early French Immersion or Grade 6 Late French Immersion?***

**My child was waitlisted to attend the French Immersion Kindergarten at his/her catchment school. Subsequently, he/she accepted a spot in another French Immersion program in Vancouver. How can my child return to the French Immersion program in his/her catchment school?**

All waitlists will be dissolved prior to the end of this school year. All unsuccessful applicants must re-apply within the registration timelines (November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011) if they wish to return to their catchment school. Should there be more applicants than available spaces in Grade 1, a draw will be held to determine the 2011/2012 waitlist for that catchment school.

**My spouse and I are separated and arrangements have been made for our child to live with one parent on alternate days/weeks. Is my child entitled to complete an in-catchment registration at two different French Immersion programs?**

No, a student can only have one catchment school. Parents need to determine which school will be their catchment school and may apply cross-boundary to other French Immersion programs.

**My child was born outside of Canada. How can I register him/her for French Immersion?**

Students born outside Canada must first register with their parent or legal guardian at the District Reception and Placement Centre (DRPC) before they can be accepted into the French Immersion program. Please see the [Step 3 of the School Registration](#) process for more specific information about registration procedures. After completing registration at DRPC, parents must then complete a French Immersion application form at their child's French Immersion catchment school.

**Can parents/legal guardians register by telephone, fax or e-mail?**

The District Reception and Placement Centre and schools do not usually accept applications by telephone, fax or e-mail as staff need to verify authenticity of documentation. Documents that are written in a foreign language need to be translated into English. Any missing documents delay the processing time for your file.