**Middle French Immersion Program – Grade 4 Entry**

Early intensity matters for students maintaining and building further language proficiency; there are higher proficiency rate when the onset is more intense in terms of exposure. The Grade 4 Middle French Immersion Program will permit students to blend with the Early Immersion Program entry students at the onset of the secondary level to continue their studies. This may permit more secondary schools to offer a more fulsome menu of courses in French with a variety of depth and breadth to compulsory and elective courses.

**Q#1: What will the program model for the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion look like?**

**A:** As early intensity to the language of instruction matters, for students in Grade 4 and Grade 5, all subjects will be taught in French. In Grades 6-8, all subjects will be taught in French with the exception of English Language and Science.

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| **Middle French Immersion Model (Grade 4 Entry Point)** | **Hours** |
| Note: EDU requirements for French Immersion are 3800 hours. | Grade 4 (100% French instruction) | 900 |
| Grade 5 (100% French instruction) | 900 |
| Grade 6 (75% French instruction) | 675 |
| Grade 7 (75% French instruction) | 675 |
| Grade 8 (75% French instruction) | 675 |
| Total Number of Hours | **3800 Hours** |
| \*\*In Middle French Immersion, Grade 4-5, all subjects will be taught in French; (however, some specialist subjects may be taught in English i.e., a PREP coverage subject). Grade 6-8 all subjects taught in French except for English Language, and Science. |

**Q#2: Where will the new Grade 4 Middle French Immersion sites be located?**

**A:** To begin, all existing Junior Extended French [program sites](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Elementary/P20201201%20FSLMiddleImmersionLocationMap.pdf) may transition to serve as the new Grade 4 Middle French Immersion sites. The two previously existing Middle French Immersion sites, John Ross Robertson Jr PS and Valleyfield Jr School will continue to host the program. Consideration for program locations, pathways and secondary school sites are all under review within the Secondary Program Review and FSL Implementation phase, but nothing is set to change in the near future. All existing pathways at this time as established at the entry of each intensive FSL program will remain as such. Changes may occur in the future in accordance with board procedures.

**Q#3: Will there be a gap in access to a Grade 4 intensive French program for students?**

**A:** No, there will be **NO** gap in access to the Grade 4 entry to intensive French programs. Interested students in the Grade 3 English program in 2019/2020 may apply in January of 2020 to the Grade 4 Junior Extended French program for entry in September 2020, and interested students in the Grade 3 English program in 2020/2021 may apply to the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program for entry in September 2021.

**Q#4: What are the timelines for the start of the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program?**

**A:** Please see the timelines below.

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| **START OF NEW GRADE 4 MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM** |
| **Program** | **First Application Period**  | **First Cohort Begins Grade 4 Middle French Immersion**  |
| Grade 4 Middle French Immersion | January 2021 | September 2021 |

**Q#5: Is Math instruction in French in the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program?**

**A:** As the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program is a second entry point to the only intensive French Language program in TDSB, for consistency of programming and in order to meet the Ministry of Education requirements for French Immersion hours, the Math curriculum will be taught in French. In addition, the following applies:

* the specific mathematical vocabulary has many identical words between French and English i.e., the words resemble one another a great deal in both languages
* abstract concepts can be explained and represented with the support of symbols, drawings, concrete materials (manipulatives) which supports and enhances learning of both the concepts and the language
* students can demonstrate their understanding of these concepts with the help of symbols, drawings and concrete materials which allows teachers to evaluate understanding of math

**Q#6: Will the Middle French Immersion students blend with the Early French Immersion students?**

**A:** The students in the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program do not blend with the students from the Early French Immersion program until Grade 9.

**Q#7: Why do the Middle French Immersion students not blend earlier than Grade 9?**

**A:** The model of delivery to ensure both programs (Middle French Immersion program and Early French Immersion program) achieve the required number of French instructional hours to enter Grade 9 is different. Also, both programs are distinctive based on subjects taught and exposure.

**Q#8: Will the Middle French Immersion students be able to acquire their TDSB certificate of bilingual studies?**

**A:** Students who successfully complete the French Immersion program are eligible for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion.  To receive their certificate, students must complete the four (4) French courses of the program (Grades 9 to 12).  The six (6) remaining credits MAY be completed at any level in other subjects offered where French is the language of instruction.

**Q#9: How will interested families submit an application for Middle French Immersion in 2021?**

**A:** The system-wide Early French Immersion and Grade 4 Middle French Immersion programs will continue to be overseen by the central FSL Department. Applications to the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program are made the year the child is in the Grade 3 English program for entry in September of Grade 4. Applications will continue to be an entirely online process.

**Q#10: Where will interested applicants submit an application?**

**A:** Interested applicants may visit the application site [www.tdsb.on.ca/pars](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/pars) during the application period. The application period will be communicated to all parents/guardians well in advance and will be posted on the public TDSB website at the link below:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs>

**Q#11: What will applicants need to know to apply?**

**A:** Interested applicants will require the following information to apply online during the application period:

* You will need your child’s date of birth and OEN (Ontario Education Number). The OEN is a 9-digit number found on any report card from the TDSB.
* For non-TDSB students, please select the “Non-TDSB Student” option and follow the steps to generate an identification number. You must then return to the PARS site and follow the application procedure with this number.
* Please select Middle French Immersion from the drop-down menu and complete the application process.

**Q#12: How will applicants be offered a placement in the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion program?**

**A:** On-time applicants will be offered a placement online via the email address provided at the time of application. Parents/Guardians MUST take action to accept this placement by the deadline requested when offered a placement.

**Q#13: How will they know which Middle French Immersion school is associated with their home address?**

**A:** Currently, every home address in TDSB is connected to a home English school. These schools will be associated with a Middle French Immersion school, defining the geographical catchment of the Grade 4 Middle French Immersion School.

**Q#14: Will applicants be guaranteed an offer to their geographical, in-area catchment Grade 4 Middle French Immersion School?**

**A:** Please note that while every effort will be made to place students in the school identified as their area Grade 4 Middle French Immersion school, this is not always possible. In cases where the number of applications in a given area is greater than the number of allotted program spaces in the school, ***students may be redirected to schools with available program space***. While admission to Middle French Immersion is guaranteed to all on-time applicants, admission to a specific school is **NOT** guaranteed.

**Q#15: How will placements be made?**

**A:** Placements are made based on the address provided prior to the application deadline. If the address changes between the application deadline and the fall of the Grade 4 year, there is no guarantee of placement in the new area. Please note that the process is **NOT** handled on a first-come, first-served basis. All applications received by the deadline are managed with the same priority.

**Q#16: Will siblings have a priority placement?**

**A:** Currently as per Operational Procedure PR597, applicants who have older sibling(s) currently enrolled in the same program and who will be in attendance the following year have a priority placement in that school.

**Q#17: What if my child will not be placed at the school I expected or wanted?**

**A:** All families who are redirected to a school other than the school associated with their home address will be held on a randomized waitlist. After placements are completed by the central FSL department, the randomized waitlist will be managed by the local school Middle French Immersion Principal. The waitlist remains active until the last day of school in September of the Grade 4 year.

**Q#18: How will redirections be determined?**

**A:** Siblings of students attending the same program in the same school have priority placement at that school, provided an application is submitted on-time following the same processes. If redirection to another Middle French Immersion school is necessary, all the families in a given English school catchment area will be offered a space at the next closest school with Middle French Immersion and available program space via the email address provided at the time of application.

**Q#19: Will we receive transportation?**

**A:** In accordance with the Transportation of Students Policy and Transportation of Student Procedure, students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 will be transported by bus, and students from Grades 6 to 8 will be provided with TTC tickets, if applicable. Students may be transported to Early and Middle French Immersion programs if the distance from home to school exceeds the following:

1. Kindergarten to Grade 5: 1.6 km or more
2. Grade 6 to 8: 3.2km or more

**Q#20: What are the benefits of French Immersion?**

**A:** Learning a second language is an advantage for students and studies show it is a key factor in academic success. A second language enhances overall skills in learning, expands career opportunities, promotes understanding among cultures, and creates multilingual world citizens. Students’ skills in the dominant language (English in this case) are often enhanced through the study of other languages.

**Q#21: Is Middle French Immersion suitable for my child?**

**A:** The Middle French Immersion program is open to all interested students (in Grade 3 English program). Research shows us that there is no such thing as an “ideal candidate” for intensive French programs. Teachers in FSL programs employ the same range of strategies to accommodate a wide range of learning styles and learning needs as they would in the English program.

**Q#22: When will our children speak French in class?**

**A:** French Immersion teachers use a range of strategies to promote understanding without resorting to translation into English such as using gestures, repetition, facial expressions, visual cues (like pictures). The teacher speaks French to the children 100% of the time.

At the start, the teacher will allow the children to speak to him/her and to each other in English. Slowly the children begin to use key classroom phrases in French. The teacher will then insist that the children speak French to him/her while allowing them to speak English to each other and finally, the children will be speaking French to the teacher and with each other.

This usually happens sometime in the middle of Grade 4. From this point on, French is the exclusive language of communication inside the classroom during the times dedicated to French instruction.

**Q#23: Will my child’s learning in English be affected?**

**A:** The French Immersion program is successful because literacy skills transfer from one language to another. We know that students in French Immersion do as well if not better than students in the general population on measures of English such as the EQAO testing in Grade 6 and the Ontario Literacy Test in Grade 10.

**Q#24: What if I don’t speak French at home?**

**A:** All French as a Second Language programs are designed for families who do NOT speak French at home. Families may support their children in French Immersion in much the same way they would in the English program. It is not necessary that a parent/guardian speak French for a child to thrive in a French Immersion program.

**Q#25: What does homework look like? I don’t speak French; how can I help my child?**

**A:** The TDSB homework policy states that homework may begin to take the form of written work towards the end of Grade 3. Once independent work begins coming home, this work is meant to be reinforcement or practice of concepts mastered already at school. With that in mind, the best way for a parent/guardian to support their child with their homework would be to: demonstrate an interest in the child’s schoolwork by asking questions about it; set up a space at home and a routine for homework completion. If a child is struggling with a particular task, let the teacher know that the child made an attempt to complete the homework, but requires additional follow-up at school to master the concept. This advice would apply in both the English and the French as a Second Language programs.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Get-Involved/Homework>

**Q#26:** **What are the curricula learned in French Immersion?**

**A:** Students in French Immersion are taught based on the same curriculum documents that they would be in the English program except that the language of instruction is French. The only curriculum especially for Immersion students is the French as a Second Language curriculum.

**Q#27: Do French Immersion students participate in EQAO?**

**A:** Students in Middle French Immersion will participate in the Grade 6 EQAO assessment. Students write the Language and the Mathematics tests in English (French Immersion students are provided with a French-English “lexique” of mathematical terms).

**Q#28: How can you help at home?**

**A:** Students in the TDSB have free access to a variety of digital tools to support their learning in FSL and in English.  Students can access all of these tools anywhere there is an internet connection by using their TDSB account.

* Visit the TDSB Virtual Library



[**www.tdsb.on.ca/library**](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/library)

**Q#29: How does the TDSB Virtual Library support learning?**

**A:**

* Extends and expands school library collections...
* provides online access to a collection of curricula relevant,

digital tools and resources that support literacy, research and inquiry for K-12 learners...

* available to all members of TDSB community 24/7 at home and at school.
* Google Apps for Education

All students from Grades 1-12 in the TDSB have G-Suite accounts. Students can change the language to French within each app.

**Q#30: Where can I find more information on French-as-a-Second Language Programs?**

**A:** At any time, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french) to view a video that provides a great deal of information about our TDSB French programs as well as the application and placement process.

**NOTE:** Operational Procedure PR597 is the procedure that governs intensive French programs, including the process by which staff manages the application and placement process for these programs. The procedure (PR597) is subject to review within the implementation phases of the FSL recommendations; changes may occur in the future in accordance with board procedures.