

## What happens after Grade 8?

The French Immersion program at St. Mary French Immersion Catholic Elementary School is the first component of a continuum of immersion education. The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board offers extended French Immersion studies through secondary school. Post-secondary studies are then available at college and university levels.



*The ability to communicate in both official languages of Canada provides exciting and varied opportunities for students in secondary school, in post-secondary school as well as in the workforce. There is no doubt that learning a second language has a positive effect on the intellectual growth and cognitive development of students. Enrolling your son or daughter in French Immersion will enrich his/her educational experience and provide him/her with an expanded world view.*

Amy Facchineri, Principal  
St. Thomas of Villanova High School

Information and research findings  
have been adapted from Canadian  
Parents for French Literature.

## How can I help my child, especially if I don't speak French?

Parents can help their children just as they would if they were enrolled in an English program.

- Take an active role in your child's learning.
- Keep in touch with your child's teacher and the school. All correspondence is in English.
- Read to your child in English, and encourage them to read in both languages. Foster a love of reading.
- Expose your child to the French language and culture outside of school.
- Let your child teach you French.

\* There is no expectation that the parents will be able to understand or speak French.

*One of the largest concerns we had when moving to the county, was into what school my wife and I would enroll our son. We knew we wanted a French Immersion education, and luckily a co-worker of mine recommended St. Mary's! It is a small community school where everyone is treated like family, and it has been a great experience for all of us. When my son graduates, he will be fluent in both official languages, which will help him lay the foundation for his continued success. It is rewarding knowing we are giving him the best opportunity for his future.*

Louis Affak, Parent  
St. Mary French Immersion Catholic Elementary School



For more information on the  
French Immersion Program,  
Contact Laura Mills at

519-253-2481 ext. 1114



\* Full Day  
Jr. Kindergarten  
to Grade 8

WINDSOR-ESSEX  
Catholic  
District School Board

**St. Mary**  
**French Immersion**  
**Catholic Elementary School**

**French Immersion**  
J.K. to Grade 8



12096 County Rd. #34  
Maidstone, ON N0R 1K0  
(519) 737-6446

[www.wecdsb.on.ca/215](http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/215)

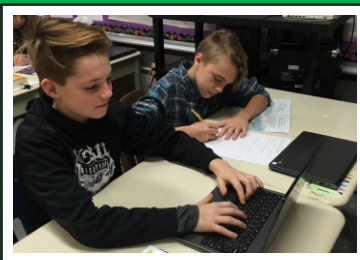
# What is the French Immersion program?

*The French Immersion Program is a highly desired program within the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board. It provides a faith-filled cultural opportunity for students to learn in both English and French. This program is designed to provide a high degree of proficiency in both languages as well as a dynamic environment in which to learn and to grow.*

## What are the benefits of French Immersion?

- Enhanced creativity and problem solving ability.
- Ability to become flexible thinkers, with superior listening skills.
- A greater facility for learning other languages.
- A greater range of career options, in an increasingly interconnected world.
- A deeper understanding of their own and other languages and cultures.
- A lifelong ability to communicate with French-speaking people here in Canada and across the globe.
- Enhanced travel experiences, especially to the 40+ countries where French is spoken.
- A positive impact on intellectual growth, including enriched and enhanced cognitive development.

## What does the program look like?



In the initial years, the program is designed to help children become accustomed to the French language, develop a positive school attitude and learning skills, and the confidence to study in a second language.

As the program develops, a balance of both French and English instruction is provided. In conjunction with our hands-on computer activities, religious studies, athletic teams, and an active school council and parent community, this creates a dynamic learning environment for our children.

The French Immersion curriculum follows the guidelines set out by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Key English subjects are introduced into the program at appropriate levels to ensure the English skills in Language Arts, Math and Science are appropriately developed.

### French Curriculum - JK to Grade 6

Religion - Catholic Prayers, French Literacy, Science, Social Studies, Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education.

### English Curriculum - JK to Grade 6

Math, Family Life & Religion and beginning in grade 3, English Literacy.

### French Curriculum - Grade 7 & 8

Religion - Catholic Prayers, French Literacy, History, Geography, Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education.

### English Curriculum - Grade 7 & 8

Math, Family Life & Religion, English Literacy and Science.

## How will my child's English language skills develop within this program?

To establish a solid base for this new language, French language skills are taught first and are therefore developed first.

An English Language Arts component is formally introduced in Grade 3, at which point the children transfer the French language skills that they have acquired into English. Knowledge of French can aid in building English vocabulary, spelling and grammar.

Due to the early emphasis on French language development, students may sometimes experience an initial lag in English skill development. However, the same studies clearly show that the introduction of English language instruction closes this skills gap by the end of elementary school.

Research has consistently shown that the English language skills of French Immersion graduates meet, or exceed, those of their peers in English language programs.



Jeremy Schiller,  
Principal/Directeur

St. Mary French Immersion  
Catholic Elementary School

*"Proficiency in both official languages is the gateway to greater future opportunities in education, commerce and travel in an ever-increasing multi-cultural world. Learning a second language can greatly strengthen first language skills by enhancing the student's comprehension of language function and structure. French Immersion students demonstrate increased critical thinking and problem solving skills which will help provide them with the necessary tools to succeed."*