

What happens after Grade 8?

The French Immersion program at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School with French Immersion 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.



“Acquiring a French Immersion Certificate provides students with a broader range of possibilities for post-secondary education, and increases opportunities for employment in both the public and private sector, as we are a bilingual country.”

Kathy Furlong, Principal,
St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary 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.

“Our children are excited to be enrolled in the French Immersion program. It opens up the world of ideas, languages and cultures which is increasingly important in our global society.”

Judy Lund, Parent, St. Anne's French Immersion Catholic Elementary School

For more information contact us at:

St. Mary Catholic Elementary School
with French Immersion

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



* Full Day
Every Day
JK-SK

WINDSOR-ESSEX
Catholic
District School Board

**St. Mary
Catholic
Elementary School**
with

**French
Immersion**



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

www.wecdsb.on.ca/215

What is the French Immersion program?

French Immersion is an English Catholic School Program where children whose first language is not French, study in both French and English. French is not only a subject, but is a language of instruction and a means of communication.

This program is designed to provide a high degree of proficiency in both the French and English languages.

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:

<i>JK-Grade 8</i>	French Language Arts, Religion, Physical Education, The Arts, Social Studies & Science.
<i>Grade 7-8</i>	History & Geography

English Curriculum:

<i>JK-Grade 8</i>	Math & Family Life
<i>Grade 3-8</i>	English Language Arts added
<i>Grade 8</i>	Science (added to the English Curriculum)

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.



“Le cadeau d'une deuxième langue est utile pour toute la vie”

“The gift of a second language is valuable for a lifetime”

Renée Saad, French Immersion teacher
St. Joseph's Secondary School