

## COMPUTER SKILLS!

As in all Elk Island Public Schools, technology is integrated into the French Immersion curriculum. Computers and related technologies are used as practical tools for learning and communicating.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

French Immersion parents are involved parents. Studies consistently show that when **parents are involved** in their children's schooling, students are more likely to have a positive attitude toward learning.

There are many things you can do to help. We recommend that you:

- establish a strong relationship with your child's teachers
- have your child explain what they have learned at school and discuss homework
- encourage children to read for pleasure in both languages
- use the helpful Parent Handbooks that explain, in English, what children are expected to learn at each grade
- provide your child with extra-curricular French activities
- continue to read to your child in English

## FRENCH IMMERSION FROM ECS TO GRADE 12

Elk Island Public Schools' French Immersion is most effective when a child continues in the program through all levels of learning from Early Childhood through Grade 12.

French Immersion programs are provided at the following schools:

**Fort Saskatchewan**  
École Rudolph Hennig School (K-9) 998-2216

**Rural Strathcona**  
École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary (K-6) 922-2066

Ardrossan Jr./Sr. High (7-12) 922-2228

**Sherwood Park**  
École Campbelltown School (K-6) 467-5143  
Sherwood Heights Jr. High (7-9) 467-5930

*We would like to help you plan for your child's ongoing participation in French Immersion.*

*If you wish to have more information about any of these schools or our French Immersion Programs, please call or visit the school nearest you. Or, call the Elk Island Public Schools division office at (780) 464-3477.*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?



*For further details about the program, the schools, registration, transportation, or answers to any other questions you might have about French Immersion at Elk Island Public Schools, please check with the school in which you wish to register your child. Or contact:*



Elk Island Public Schools  
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Sherwood Park, Alberta  
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Tel: (780) 464-EIPS (3477)  
Toll free: 1-800-905-EIPS (3477)  
Fax: (780) 417-8181  
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Website: [www.ei.educ.ab.ca](http://www.ei.educ.ab.ca)

**the right answer**

## FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMS



**the right answer**



Elk Island Public Schools

# the right answer



Elk Island Public Schools

**French Immersion** at Elk Islands Public Schools is definitely *the right answer* for many students. The aim of the program is functional bilingualism — excellent English skills and the ability to comfortably speak and write in French. But the program also nurtures social, cultural and emotional development in children while they are gaining proficiency in both English and French.

**The curriculum** follows the Alberta Program of Studies enhanced by instruction in French. Students master French by using it to learn other school subjects including Language Learning, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Phys.Ed., Music, Health and Art. The experience of second language learning helps students to succeed in all areas of their lives.

**Early Immersion is most effective.** Young children are not overwhelmed by the challenge of new sounds and words. They soon learn to think and speak in both languages. In fact, most of them think learning a second language is fun!



## SO MANY BENEFITS!

- Researchers find that children who learn a second language are better problem solvers, have good thinking and communication skills, and are efficient processors of information.
- French Immersion students increase their ability to master additional languages.
- Immersion children excel on the Provincial Achievement Tests in both French and English exams.
- The program opens up opportunities for national and international exchanges and tours, as well as participation in multicultural projects.
- Students in the program are able to experience other cultures and develop a lifelong appreciation and respect for diversity.
- French Immersion students have more opportunities when they begin post-secondary education.
- **Bilingual graduates have increased options in the job market!**

# the right answer(s)

to your questions about the French Immersion programs at Elk Island Public Schools:

1. *Does my child need any experience with French before entering the program?*

The program is designed for children with no previous French.

2. *Will my child's English suffer?*

By the end of the elementary grades, children in the French Immersion program perform as well, or better than students in the English program.

3. *What about the other subjects?*

Experience and research have shown that achievement in other academic subjects such as Science or Mathematics are not adversely affected — in fact, French Immersion students tend to excel.

4. *How does French Immersion compare with the English program?*

Students complete the regular Alberta Education curriculum in French, as well as a regular English Language Arts program.

5. *Will my child be at a disadvantage because we cannot help with homework?*

Parents who do not speak French can still help with homework. Children explain the homework in English; you help your child in English and the child applies it in French.

6. *What will happen if my child is experiencing learning difficulties?*

Learning difficulties may occur in any program and may have nothing to do with the language of instruction. It is important to utilize the expertise of school staff and other resource personnel to determine the source of concern.

7. *At what grade level can my child start in a French Immersion program?*

Students can start at the ECS (Kindergarten) or Grade 1 level.

8. *How much French will my child speak in the classroom?*

The ECS (Kindergarten) program is presented in French, but English is used by the teacher when necessary. In Grades 1 to 6, at least 75% of the program is conducted in French. Children are encouraged to respond in French as much as they can. (Formal English and French reading instruction begin in Grade 1.) In Grades 7 to 12, the curriculum continues to follow the guidelines of Alberta Education and covers the same basic program as it does in English.

9. *How do the children respond to the program?*

They love it — but see for yourself! You're welcome to visit one of our French Immersion schools, take a tour, and watch the program in action.