

French Immersion Kindergarten

Parent Information



École Centrale

ec@retsd.mb.ca

204-958-6426

What is French Immersion?

French Immersion is a second-language program and one of Manitoba's four recognized language programs.



Its goal is to have children achieve linguistic competency in both French and English while achieving all the educational and social outcomes of the English program.



Who is French Immersion for?

French Immersion is designed for children whose first language is NOT French and who have little to NO knowledge of French prior to entering the program.



There are NO entrance requirements for French Immersion. Any child of Kindergarten or Grade 1 age can enter the program.



Who teaches French Immersion?

French Immersion teachers are bilingual. Many have learned French as a second language themselves and have studied specific strategies and methods of teaching a second to children whose home language is not French.



How much French is there in a French Immersion school?



- At École Centrale, French is the language of communication and the language of instruction.
- In Kindergarten, all subjects are delivered in French (There is no English Language Arts).
- In Grades 1-5, an English Language Arts program represents approximately 20% of instructional time.

En français s'il vous plaît!

At École Centrale, music, physical education and library are all delivered « en français ».

Français is the language of most announcements and most assemblies.

English language presentations and cultural activities are also held from time-to-time.



Characteristics of an Effective French Immersion Kindergarten Classroom

- Linguistically rich decor with French vocabulary supported by pictures and images in the classroom
- Easy accessibility to assorted French books, on-line resources, music and games
- The teacher speaking French at all times (except when dealing with emotional or safety concerns)
- The teacher uses gestures, mime, intonation, pictures and objects to convey meaning



Characteristics...continued

- The teacher encourages students to experiment in French through the use of routines, activities, rhyme and song
- An emphasis on oral skills to stimulate language acquisition
- The incorporation of French culture through authentic activities and materials, visits and field trips
- Parental involvement is encouraged!



Readiness skills to work on at home for Kindergarten

- Know first and last name
- Recognize their written name
- Sing ABC song
- Count and recognize numbers to 10
- Develop independence
- Have a routine
- Take off and put on shoes, boots and outer clothing
- Go to the bathroom independently
- Able to use a tissue to blow their nose
- Develop fine motor skills (holds a pencil and cut with scissors)



As a parent, how do I help?

- Talk with your child, ask child to explain things encourage curiosity.
- Read to your child. Choose books beyond the child's reading level to encourage both oral and written language and to share the JOY of reading.
- Read with your child...in unison...with expression.
- Write for your child. Have your child dictate a meaningful sentence or list.
- Validate the importance of reading and writing. Be a ROLE MODEL.
- Provide experiences with drawing, painting, measuring, collecting, counting, playing games and sports.
- Provide resources in French: watch French T.V., listen to French music or books, go to a French restaurant, attend Le Festival du Voyageur.



Kindergarten Registration

- Begins **Monday, March 3rd, at 8 a.m.** for all River East Transcona School Division schools.
- Please check School Locator on our website to ensure you are in E.C. catchment
- École Centrale is CLOSED to School of Choice form.
- As per divisional policy, decisions regarding requests communicated to parents no later than June 30th.
- Our division is working hard to accommodate the needs of our parents and families.
- If your child has special needs, is receiving services in the community for speech, language, OR developmental needs, please contact your DESIGNATED school AND school of choice immediately.

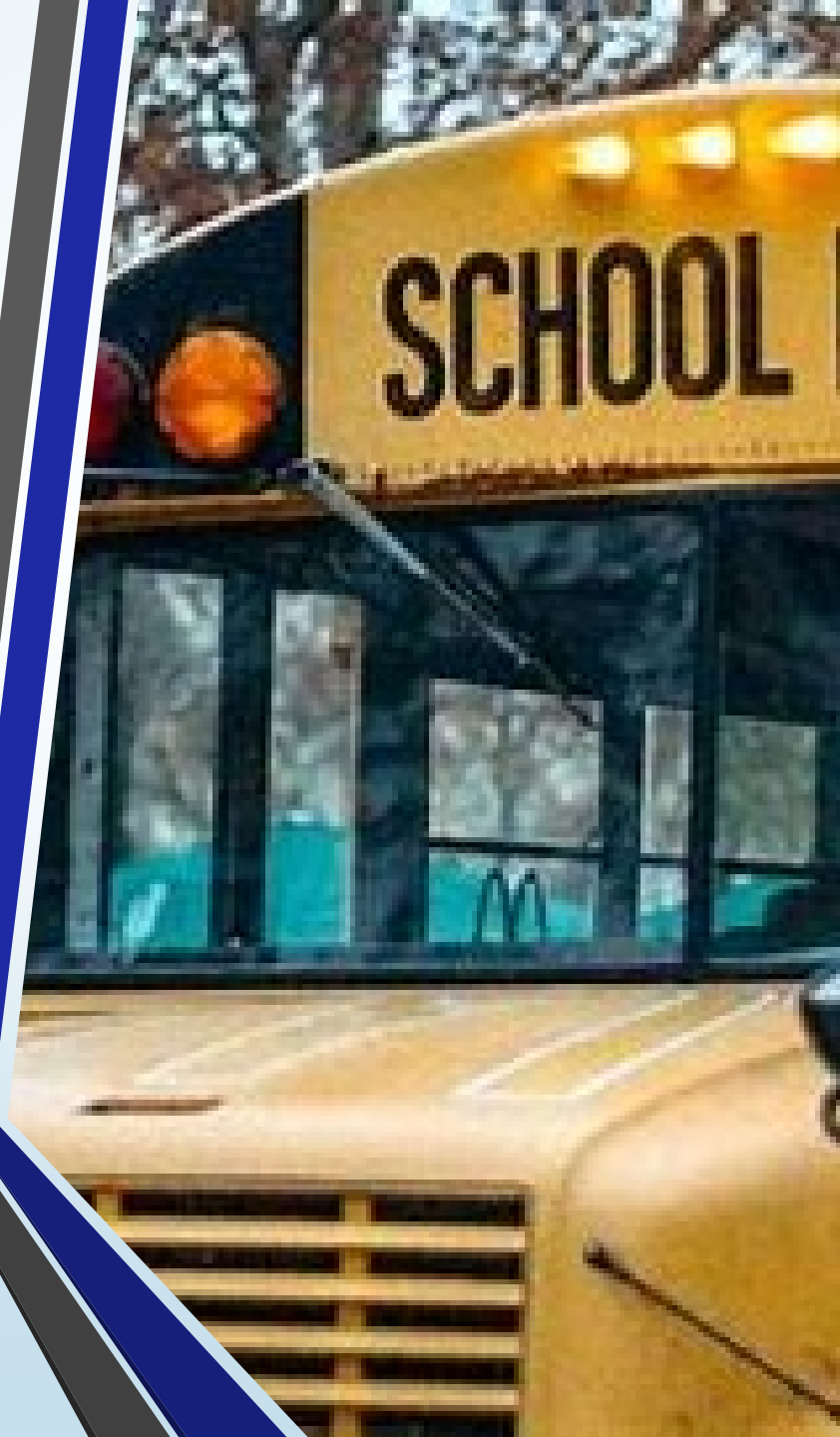
Kindergarten Registration

- Please go to the RETSD website, and click on the « school locator » to find out what your catchment school is. You must register at your catchment school.
- Parents can come the school at any time after March 1st to pick up a registration form.
- Registration forms can also be found online on the school website, under registration.
- When bringing in the completed form, please bring:
- **Proof of age** - your child's Birth Certificate or Passport
- **Proof of Residency (2 documents)** (It must be 2 of the following items: Driver's License, Man. Health Card, Tenancy Agreement, Offer to purchase, Utility bills etc.)

TRANSPORTATION

- Students in-catchment must live 1.6 km or more from the designated school to qualify for transportation.
- The division may be able to offer fee for service busing.
- If you have any questions regarding transportation, please call:

(204) 669- 0202



Health Care

- If your child has Asthma, uses a puffer at school, has allergies that may require an EpiPen, your child requires a HEALTH CARE PLAN
- Please advise the school at the time of registration.
- Every year in September, a newsletter containing information on foods not permitted into the building due to life threatening allergies is sent home.
- If your child has a life-threatening food allergy and requires an EpiPen, please let us know as there is further information, we need to share with you.
- An EpiPen **MUST** be carried by the child at all times in a fanny pack at Early Years. This is the responsibility of the parents.

École Centrale Kindergarten Orientation Night

Please check the École Centrale website
<https://www.retsd.mb.ca/school/ec>

May 13, 2025, at 6:00pm in the gym.



If you have any questions, please call:
École Centrale – (204) 958-6426