

Frequently Asked Questions

Can children who were enrolled in a French Immersion program participate in the French First Language program? Yes, provided that the French skills are sufficient to meet the standards in our French program.

Will my child be behind in his courses when he/she returns to a francophone school in Canada?

Generally not. Students do learn the required course content but most of it in another language. French should be at the same or similar level upon returning to Canada having received daily instruction at AFNORTH International School.

Can my child take German as a second language as well?

Yes, but only if the student's English skills are of a sufficiently high level to miss the additional daily instruction in English. Each student is evaluated on an individual basis and parents must speak with the principal before a final decision is made.

Does learning a second language make it more difficult for a student to work in his/her own language?

No, actually research indicates the opposite. The more languages you learn, the greater the proficiency in your own language becomes, provided you keep using your mother tongue.

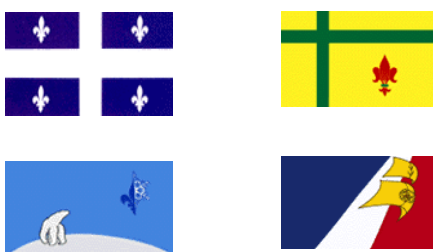
French First Language: Elementary

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French First Language: Secondary

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French First
Language



A F N O R T H
I N T E R N A T I O N A L
S C H O O L

School Year
2007-08

At AFNORTH International School, there is a strong emphasis on learning languages. Starting with International Year One (IY1), first year kindergarten, students aged 4 years, have the opportunity to enroll in French or German as a Second Language Program to prepare them for instruction in English.

For students whose mother tongue is French, the opportunity exists to enroll in our French First Language Program at the Elementary (IY2-M2) or Secondary Level.

Goals

The goals of the French First Language Program are:

- At the Elementary level, provide continuation of grade appropriate French language development;
- At the secondary level, provide instruction in selected French secondary courses following the Quebec Ministry of Education curriculum;
- At the elementary and secondary level, maintain a level of instruction which meets or exceeds the standards of instruction as directed by the Quebec Ministry of Education.

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Access

- at the IY2 to M2 level (Kindergarten to Grade 6), students who have sufficient French Language Arts skills to follow an elementary French First Language Program.
- at the secondary level, students who have received sufficient instruction in French to be able to follow secondary French courses.

How is the program scheduled?

From IY2—M2 (Kindergarten to Grade 6), students are pulled out of the regular language arts class and receive instruction in French from 45 to 75 minutes daily. During this time, the students of English as the language of instruction follow the English Language Arts Program.

In addition, students in the French program will receive 30 minutes of daily instruction in English language arts; during this time other students are taking German or French As A Second Language as an additional language.

Curriculum

At the elementary level, students follow classes using approved materials following curriculum standards set by the Quebec Department of Education.

At the secondary level, students have the choice of French language courses from Grade 7—Grade 12 and history and geography. Other requests for French courses will be made available where possible.

At the secondary level, students will write approved exams and will receive high school credits as approved by the Quebec Ministry of Education.

Enrollment

Due to the low numbers of enrolment, students of two grade levels are combined: IY3 with IY4 (Grade 1 with Grade 2), IY5 and IY6 (Grade 3 with Grade 4), M1 with M2 (Grade 5 with Grade 6).

Since only French is used as the language of instruction and approved Quebec standards of curriculum content are followed, the child must possess the necessary French language skills.

In order to facilitate the change from a school where the language of instruction is French to a school with English as the language of instruction such as AFNORTH International School, students with very limited English skills are required to follow the English language Arts program during the first year at A.I.S.

English as a Second Language will be taught during the first year to maximize developing English Language Arts skills. When a student has graduated from the English as a Second Language Program, students will receive daily additional instruction in English Literacy Development to further develop and maintain their English skills.

