

Language Programming

AFNORTH International School

Students at AFNORTH International School (AIS) enjoy many opportunities to learn a second language with the greater focus being French language instruction for Canadian students. This document specifically highlights our programs and options.

Elementary

We are able to offer our Canadian students the following language classes:

- French as a Second Language (FSL),
- French as a Second Language – Enriched (FSL-E),
- French First Language (FFL),
- English as a Second Language (ESL),
- English Language Arts (ELA),
- English Language Arts – Intensive (ELA-I), and
- German as a Second Language* (GSL).

French First Language students are typically those children that are native French speakers able to follow a French Language Arts program using Québec's [Programmes d'études du français](#) (program of studies). Students from [IY2 – M2](#) taking French First Language are getting the full French Language Arts program which replaces its equivalent in English. The FFL students do have English classes ([ELA-I](#)) as explained later in this document.

AIS' Partner Language Program

Throughout the day, a 30 minute block of language instruction is scheduled for what is known as our "Partner Language Program." Essentially, it means that students take one of the following classes as determined by the principal:

ESL FSL FSL-E ELA-I GSL*

The following paragraphs describe in greater detail each of these classes.

Although typical French as a Second Language (FSL) programs in Canada begin at the grade four level, AIS begins its instruction at grade IY1. Students at AIS receive 30 minutes/day of French language instruction from IY1 to M2. In order to enhance and differentiate our FSL program, we have implemented a French as a Second Language – Enriched curriculum that has been created and implemented by Dependent Education Management's teaching staff. It allows for more in-depth French language studies that go beyond what the FSL curriculum provides for its IY2-M2 children. Students in our FSL-E program are usually former French Immersion students or students that have an aptitude for language acquisition.

As do most schools, English as a Second Language (ESL) plays an important role in AIS programming. Unlike most schools, AIS has an ESL team of professionals

* There are special conditions for Canadian students wishing to take GSL.

including three full-time teachers and two teaching assistants that work with all students regardless of their nationalities. The ESL component is especially significant given our enrolment of FFL Canadian students.

In addition to our regular English Language Arts (Literacy) classes given in the students' homerooms, we also offer an English Language Arts – Intensive curriculum. Based on AIS' literacy curriculum, the ELA-I teacher compresses and highlights the key essential learning outcomes to give the students an intensive yet complete literacy program during the 30 minute daily classes.

Students in our ELA-I classes are FFL children unable to take the regular Literacy courses as they are already taking French. Students are able to take only one full language course during the school day. In other words, students cannot take the FFL and the ELA courses at AIS; it must be one or the other. Should a student take FFL, they must then be enrolled in ELA-I or, if warranted, ESL.

Given the fact that Canada is a bilingual country (French and English), Canadian students are required to learn their country's official languages. However, exceptional circumstances may warrant a Canadian student taking German as a Second Language (GSL) classes. A meeting with the principal is necessary to discuss the requested change in programming.

The following scenarios are typical of Canadian students at AIS.

1. John has just finished a grade one French Immersion program in Canada and will now be attending AIS in September. As he has only begun learning French, he will be placed in our FSL-Enriched program for 30 minutes/day and will be receiving between 65 - 75 minutes/day of English Literacy.
2. Suzanne is a grade four student from Quebec who speaks only French. She is placed in our FFL program receiving a complete French Language Arts curriculum (65 – 75 minutes of instruction/day). She is also placed in our ESL program during our Partner Language program. Once she “exits” or no longer needs ESL education, she is then enrolled in our ELA-I classes.
3. Louise is a grade five student who has been in a Canadian French Immersion program since kindergarten. Upon enrolment, Louise's family would like her to take FFL and ELA-I classes. She is put into the FFL classes on a short trial basis to determine if she is able to successfully meet the requirements of the program. Following the trial period, the teacher, principal, student and parents will establish the best placement for the student; however, the final decision rests with the principal.
4. Matthew is a grade two student and has arrived to AIS never having any French language instruction in Canada. He is placed in the FSL program at AIS. However, after five months of FSL, the teachers have determined that Matthew's skills, motivation and aptitude are all contributing to his high degree of success and merit the more advanced FSL-E classes. The final decision regarding placement continues to lie with the principal.