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# TUC-EL-NUIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)



# *Learning without limits.* …………………………………………………………………..…...6648 Park Drive

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# **What Is Late French Immersion?**

Late French Immersion programs vary across BC and the Yukon. They usually involve two to three years of intensive instruction in French and a follow-up program of less intensity. At Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary, Late French Immersion starts in Grade 6. All academic instruction for our grade 6s, with the exception of PE and music, is in French. In the following year, English Language Arts is reintroduced to our grade 7s.

## **What are the program goals?**

* To develop language skills enabling students to participate easily in French conversation.
* To provide an insight into the French culture.
* To have the option to pursue post-secondary education with French as the language of instruction.
* To gain employment using French as the working language.
* To achieve skills in all subject areas equivalent to those in the English program.
* To graduate functionally bilingual in English and French.

## How is Late French Immersion taught?

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Students are taught the same curriculum as English students but the language of instruction is French. At first, students have limited vocabulary so teachers concentrate on language. Later as language skills develop, the smaller details are filled in. The method used is very similar to that used in English as a Second Language classes—it is a proven methodology.

## What characteristics do students need to be successful?

**Motivation** to learn

**Openness** to learning in another language

**Eagerness** to meet new friends and have new experiences

**Willingness** to work hard, especially in the initial fall term when learning basic language skills

**Enjoyment** of language activities and a willingness to spend lots of time chatting to friends in class en français!

## What do parents need to do to support their children?

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It is **not** a requirement that parents understand or speak French at home. Many actually don’t. Parents can play an active role in their child's success in a number of ways:

**Provide encouragement—**especially during the fall term when students acquire basic language skills.

**Be willing** to help with homework, letting the student do the translations.

**Provide opportunities** for your child to hear and use French outside the classroom.

**Know there is support for you and your child** through CPF-BC & Yukon [**www.cpf.bc.ca**](http://www.cpf.bc.ca)

**Recognize** your child's wonderful accomplishments!

## What about the students' academic achievements?

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Research shows there is absolutely no detrimental effect on academic performance in any subject area despite learning in a new language. A larger English vocabulary could be a spin-off as French words are often similar to English words. In the BC Foundation Skills Assessments in Grades 4 &7 students are tested in English in reading, writing and numeracy. French Immersion students do as well as or better than students in the English program at all grade levels.

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| **Progression of Learning French in** **Grade 6 Late French Immersion** | | |
| **Autumn** | **December…..** **January** | **Spring** |
| Speaks a bit in French | Speaks in short, complete sentences | Speaks in longer sentences |
| Listens a lot | Speaks about concrete things | Can participate in an abstract conversation |
| Has limited comprehension | Has an average comprehension (60% of message) | Comprehends more complex written messages |
| Tries to make sense of words | Comprehends written messages with short, simple sentences |  |
| Gains confidence in abilities | Has acquired confidence | Is comfortable in a variety of situations |
| Takes risks | Takes risks | Takes risks |
| Uses his/her abilities in English to make sense of what the teacher is saying | Starts to talk to other students in French | Is able to go beyond what is given |
| Becomes familiar with sounds and routines | Starts to self-correct and recognize errors | Works independently |

## What about high school?

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Currently, South Okanagan Secondary School (SOSS) provides an accelerated French program for Tuc-el-Nuit French Immersion graduates. In addition, SOSS and Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary continue to explore ways to offer integrated French programs and supports to enrich students’ French language skills.

**How Do Students Register for the 2017-18 FI Program?**

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# To register, please visit www.sd53.bc.ca/TEN and fill out an online registration form by March 17, 2017. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information contact Deirdre Simpson, via email (dsimpson@sd53.bc.ca), or through phoning our office (250) 498-3415.

Please plan to attend our parent information session on **Thursday March 2 at 5:30 pm** in the Tuc-el-Nuit library.

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