

<http://edwards.rockview.ab.ca/>

## École Edwards Elementary School



**“When I found out I could speak French it was like Wow! It’s so incredible!”**

**Brooklyn, Gr. 3**



### What is French Immersion?

French Immersion is designed for all students and all types of learners. Students may enter the program in either kindergarten or grade one. From kindergarten to grade two, students receive 100% of their instruction in French.

École Edwards is proud to offer a French music program to all Immersion students. Students showcase their learning in bilingual concerts that are held twice a year.

English is introduced in grade three for approximately one hour per day. In the

Immersion program, students achieve a high level of proficiency in French, while they continue to develop English Language skills. As they continue in the program, students develop the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write in both French and English.

**“Immersion is the most effective method known for teaching a second-language.”**

- Canadian Parents for French

Together we . . .



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at École Edwards Elementary School

## Did you know?

- French is spoken by 128 million people worldwide.
- French is spoken as an official language in 33 countries around the world, and is the only language other than English that is spoken on 5 continents.
- The French language is 27 % lexically similar to English, 89% similar to Italian and 75% similar to Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and German.
- French is a language of world diplomacy and a working language of international organizations such as the European Economic Community, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, NATO, and the International Olympic Committee



**“I just felt like so good in myself that now I understand a different language.”**

**Levi, Gr. 3**

## Dispelling the Myths

**Myth:** French Immersion students do not have special learning needs.

**Fact:** Researchers have found that immersion students with a variety of difficulties may do as well academically as they could be expected to do in an English program.

**Myth:** French Immersion students are disadvantaged in English.

**Fact:** Many studies conclude that early immersion students do as well as their English counterparts.

## Preparing your child for French Immersion

- You can help prepare your child for French Immersion in the same way that you would prepare your child for the English program by getting them excited about going to school!
- Foster a positive attitude towards reading. Read aloud to your child every day in the language you speak most often at home.
- Play fun learning games: teach the alphabet, introduce capital and lower case letters, practice printing your child’s name, introduce number recognition to 10 or 20, play colour and shape games.
- Visit your local library to borrow French music, videos, books and magazines.
- Please visit the following website for more ideas: <http://www.cpfalta.ab.ca/>

## Learning Support

Based on the new inclusive education framework as outlined by *Alberta Education*, French Immersion students receive support in the classroom through differentiated instruction.

Students are able to transfer their knowledge from one language to another. Reading in English simply occurs later, as instruction begins in grade 3.

**Myth:** Parents have to know French in order to support their children in French Immersion.

**Fact:** The French Immersion program is specifically designed for students who have no proficiency in French and whose parents do not speak French.

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