

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: Letter to Parents – French Immersion Program

Thank you for your interest in Delta's French Immersion program!

Delta School District is very proud of its successful Early and Late French Immersion programs. We are dedicated in providing effective programs that help students become functionally bilingual in both of Canada's official languages. We have been successful in the past few years in preparing students to win First Place at the provincial and national levels in the French Speaking Competitions.

While the French Immersion program is incredibly beneficial, it can be very challenging. Therefore, it is important that parents/guardians be aware that their child's **motivation, attitude, anxiety-level, and interest** are key factors that contribute to a positive and successful experience. Because French Immersion parents generally do not speak French, students need to be independent and self-motivated learners. The French Immersion program is most effective for students who already have **well-established first language skills**, who show a natural inclination for language, who are curious about words, and have a good ear for sounds. Because students will be learning in a different language, they need to be **focussed, good listeners, patient, and tolerant** of not understanding every word the teacher says. Some students may find this too stressful of a learning situation.

It is important to be committed to the French Immersion program through to Grade 12. Only by completing the program can we ensure student success in becoming functionally bilingual. Keep in mind that it is not a simple process to switch students out of the French Immersion program once they have begun. However, in some instances, to meet the needs of some students, a recommendation may be made to transfer a student out of the French Immersion program.

Therefore, we highly recommend that you attend a *Parent Information Meeting* to become better informed and to determine whether or not a French Immersion program is for your child.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christine Carriou  
Modern Languages Coordinator  
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cc: Nancy Gordon, Assistant Superintendent

Neil Stephenson, Director of Learning Services