

INTENSIVE FRENCH

NOT JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG!



ALL ABOUT INTENSIVE FRENCH

WHAT IS INTENSIVE FRENCH?

Intensive French is an enhancement of the Core French program through the creation of a period of intensive exposure to French. During 5 months of the year, the students are exposed to the language at a higher intensity enabling them to receive at least 3 times the number of hours of instruction normally devoted to French in the school year.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In Intensive French, students work on listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing activities exclusively in French. The approach encourages students to use the language authentically. Learning tasks build upon each other towards the creation of projects. The learning activities and topics are linked to the students' personal interests and experiences.

Mathematics, in addition to some other subjects such as Music and Physical Education, may be offered in English throughout the entire school year. Other subjects are not taught during the 5 months of Intensive French; these are locally determined. Students complete these subjects in the following semester.

HOW CAN THIS BE DONE WHILE MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE OTHER SUBJECTS?

The five-month Intensive French period has been created by realigning the curriculum and by rescheduling core subjects in order to create the Intensive French period. For instance, Social Studies and Science are taught only in the second half of the year. Process skills that are used in all subject areas are also used in the learning activities in Intensive French and in other subject areas, so, when the subjects are formally introduced in the second half of the year, the focus is placed increasingly on content goals. For example, in French class, students will predict elements of a story. Prediction is a skill that will be reapplied in Science and in English Language Arts in the second half. Therefore, a year-long commitment is needed in order to meet all the objectives of the year.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NON-INTENSIVE SEMESTER?

During the non-intensive semester, the students go back to their regular curriculum, including regular periods for French. However, in these periods, the students continue with the same kind of learning activities they have used in the intensive period, including working in groups and project activities. Because the emphasis is still on communicating in French, students continue to build on their fluency and accuracy in French.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT THAN IMMERSION? HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT THAN CORE FRENCH?

In French immersion, students learn French through learning other subjects, such as Mathematics, Science or Social Studies in French.

In Intensive French, the focus is on learning the French language as a means of communication. Intensity and increased instructional time in French permit students to develop their communication skills, both oral and written, through learning activities related to themes. All other subjects are taught in English.

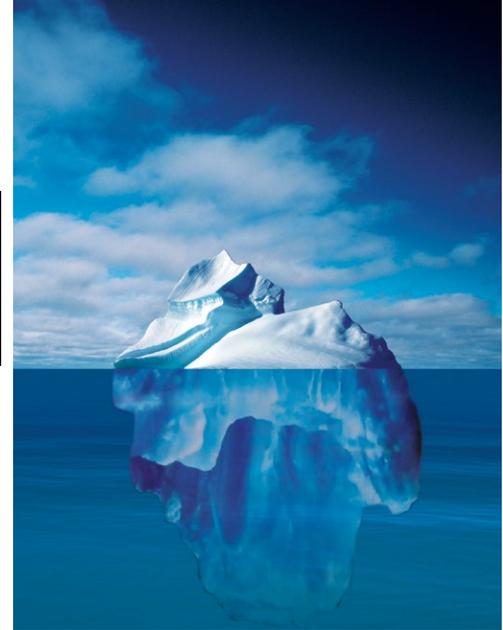
In Core French, students also follow a communicative project-based approach to learn the French language. The aim of Core French is to provide a solid introduction and base upon which students can build.

WHAT HAPPENS THE FOLLOWING YEAR?

To maintain or improve the French language skills acquired during the Intensive French year, students can choose an appropriate follow-up program. Program options include Enriched French, Extended French, or other types of enhanced Core French programs, depending on the jurisdiction. Late French Immersion, where available, may be an option based on jurisdiction.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT TO HELP MY CHILD?

- Encourage your child to watch French TV programs, listen to French music, and read French books based on his/her interests.
- Take advantage of French cultural events and get involved in enrichment opportunities where your child can use the French language.
- Focus on the positive: ask your child what he/she enjoys. Celebrate your child's successes.
- Establish a positive rapport with the teacher and open the lines of communication with the school.



For more information on Intensive French, contact your school district, or the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers.



**Canadian Association of
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