



50 Broad Street
Bedford, NS B4A 0T4
902-405-0337, wbs@hrce.ca

Principal: Susan Casey

Vice Principals: Courtney Smith
: Alison Birdsall

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Dear Families,

The French Immersion team at WBS are keen to collaborate with you to help your child thrive in our French Immersion (FI) program. To maintain the program's success and effectiveness, we'd like to share some important expectations, along with ways you can support your child's language development at home.

French Immersion Program Expectations:

- **Full-Day French Immersion:** Students are immersed in French throughout the entire school day. All lessons—except for specialist subjects such as Physical Education, and Music—are conducted entirely in French.
- **Language Use:** To create a rich linguistic environment, French is expected to be spoken at all times:
 - **Student to Teacher**
 - **Teacher to Student**
 - **Student to Student**
 - **Teacher to Teacher**

This immersion approach helps students develop their language skills more naturally and effectively.

- **English Language Arts Introduction:** Beginning in **Grades 3**, students will receive 30-45 minutes of English Language Arts instruction daily. This mirrors the structure in the English program, where students begin Core French instruction in grade 4.
- **Homework:** Work sent home is primarily for practice and reinforcement of classroom learning. While students may need to review materials in French, we understand that not all families are fluent in the language.

How Families Can Support at Home:

- **No Need to Speak French at Home:** It is not expected that families know how to speak French. However, your encouragement and interest in your child's learning can make a big difference. Students will often come home eager to share, celebrate, and practice what they've learned.
- **Fostering Language Growth:** We encourage families to support French language development by:
 - Encouraging your child to read French books appropriate for their level.
 - Suggesting they write in French—this could be as simple as a journal entry or labeling household items.
 - Listening to French music, podcasts, or watching French television programs suitable for their age.
 - Exploring aspects of French culture through food, traditions, and community events.
- **Encouragement:** Simply showing enthusiasm for your child's efforts and progress in French can boost their confidence. Encouraging them to do their best in speaking, reading, and writing French reinforces the importance of the language both at school and at home.

Thank you for your continued support in making our French Immersion program a success. If you have any questions or would like more resources on how to support your child's language learning at home, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Susan Casey
Principal