



Bienvenue!

Welcome to Art Smith Aviation Academy!

We are excited that you are interested in joining our French Immersion program! Our team is committed to providing quality instruction in a second language learning environment. We offer all the benefits of being part of the Academy, as well as the opportunity to develop written and oral fluency in French. We understand that, as parents, you want to ensure that you are choosing the best setting for your child's learning. We hope that the following information will be useful in answering any questions you may have.

What Is French Immersion?

French immersion is a highly successful approach to second language learning — an effective way for students to become functionally fluent in French while achieving all of the objectives of the regular school program. French is the language of instruction for a significant part of the school day; that is, several or all subjects, except English language arts, are taught in French. This program is designed for students whose first language is not French. The objective is full mastery of the English language, functional fluency in French, as well as an understanding and appreciation of the French culture.

As a parent, what is my role in my child's education?

You are your child's first teacher and are still the source of much of his/her learning. We encourage you to communicate with teachers, to offer useful information and to ask relevant questions about your child's progress. Knowing the expectations – skills and knowledge – of the Kindergarten Program will help you to understand the assessment of your child's learning. You and the teacher will be working together to improve your child's progress throughout the year.

Note: Reading with your child each day has been proven in research to have an impact on future academic success. Even though your child will be learning to read in French first, continued reading with him/her in English is important.

What if I don't speak French? Will I still be able to help my child?

Many of our immersion students come from English-speaking families. If you do not speak French this should not be a deterrent! Our teachers have supports in place to help you with developing your child's skills at home. Recorded books and online reading programs that your child can follow along with help to alleviate any concerns you may have about proper pronunciation etc. And the best part is that you can learn along with your child!

When will my child learn to read and write in English?

Although formal English instruction begins in grade three, our experience is that most students will automatically start transferring skills to English by the second grade. It is really quite amazing to see how fluent they are in both languages by the time they finish the third grade!

What if my child has problems in the immersion setting?

Frequent and open communication is essential to any school program. Establish a rapport with your child's teacher early in the year and maintain that connection. Parents are welcome to come in and help out in the classroom or with school events. If you have the chance, take advantage of this to see how your child is interacting with others in his/her school environment.

The following links provide additional information which you may find useful.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at the school if you have further questions we can assist you with.

School Website: www.artsmithacademy.ca