

We say oui!

To French Immersion and Core French

French Immersion

French Immersion, which provides a balance of English and French instruction in Rainbow Schools, immerses students in the French language, including cultural experiences. The French Immersion program provides students with the skills they need to communicate in a second language and thereby to enhance their ability to perform effectively and meet with success in a rapidly changing global economy.

Core French

Core French, offered daily as part of the regular English program in Rainbow Schools, develops basic communication skills in French and an understanding of the nature of the language. The Core French program offers students a valuable educational experience and the opportunity to develop a basic usable command of the French language that can be expanded through further study or contact with French-speaking people.

Embark on a pathway towards becoming bilingual.

Register Now in French Immersion and Core French at the Rainbow School near you.

Here's what graduates say about the benefits of studying French as a Second Language.



Christine Catt
(née Labelle)
Anchor/
Video-Journalist,
Channel 10 News

French Immersion Graduate
Confederation Secondary School
Class of 1994

After graduating from the French Immersion program at Confederation Secondary School, I studied broadcast journalism at Canadore College.

I began my career with Northern Cable/The Box in Elliot Lake in October 1996 and, in January 1997, joined Northern Cable/The Box in Sudbury (now The Amazing Persona and Channel 10 News). Over the years, I have worked in a number of roles – scriptwriter, voice-over announcer, videographer, editor and production co-ordinator. In 2003, I became an anchor/video-journalist for Channel 10 News.

For me, being bilingual has been like having a foot in the door for job interviews. It's almost always considered an asset. As the only bilingual news reporter currently on staff at Channel 10 News, I am frequently called upon to conduct French interviews and/or cover Francophone-specific events. Speaking French is a valuable skill that I am thankful I have.

Never pass up an opportunity to learn a new skill and a new language. It only makes you more marketable and opens up new avenues of opportunity for your future.



Lisa Labrecque
(née Ouellet)
Core French
Teacher
Rainbow Schools

French Immersion Graduate
Lasalle Secondary School
Class of 1996

After I graduated in 1996 from the French Immersion program at Lasalle Secondary School, I continued my education at the University of Michigan where I completed a double major in French and Physical Education and earned my Teaching Certificate.

I continue to use French on a daily basis since I am currently the Core French teacher at Wanup Public School and have previously taught in the French Immersion program for the Rainbow District School Board.

Being fluent in French has helped me tremendously in every aspect of my life. While travelling abroad, I have been able to easily communicate with many individuals who are only French speakers.

Also, being bilingual has enabled me to have many more opportunities professionally since many employers realize the benefits of having an employee who is fluent in different languages.

I would encourage students thinking of continuing their study of the French language to do so. The personal and professional benefits of being bilingual are endless and they are definitely worth the effort.



John Lennard
Laurentian
University
Student

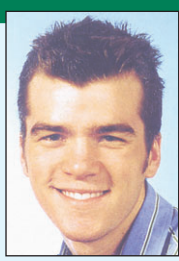
French Immersion Graduate
Lasalle Secondary School
Class of 2003

The importance of having a solid grasp of French in today's Canada and today's world has never been stronger or more pressing. Let's face it: French is an international language.

In terms of employment opportunities, career advancement, travel and exchanges, knowing French is simply indispensable. This is the reason my parents enrolled me in French Immersion as a child. This is the reason I continued in the French Immersion program throughout high school, graduating from Lasalle Secondary School in 2003. Indeed, this is the reason I went a step further and study in my second language at the university level.

In the fall of 2003, I enrolled in the French Commerce and Administration program at Laurentian University, specializing in Public Policy and International Management. I am in my third year now, and I can honestly say that I have never regretted my decision. Sure, it was daunting at first, studying in an environment where French is spoken all the time. But I got used to it. Class sizes are smaller, student-teacher bonds are more personal and the camaraderie between students is stronger.

When I graduate next year, I know my opportunities will be far more extensive, not only in Canada but around the world. My advice to students: Continue studying French! I know it's tough sometimes, but if you keep working at it, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Your future prospects are truly boundless.



Andrew Muetze
Laurentian
University
Student

French Immersion Graduate
Lockerby Composite School
Class of 2003

After graduating from the French Immersion/Laptop Program at Lockerby Composite School in 2003, I continued my studies at Laurentian University in a four-year double major honours degree in political science and history.

I continued to take French courses at the second language level in university and after my second year decided to participate in an exchange program at the Institut d'études politiques de Lille, France (IEP). I am currently completing my year abroad and will receive the Certificat d'études politiques (CEP). Most courses are taught in French and I have benefited greatly from this challenge. My French will continue to improve in my last year of studies at Laurentian and this will be an advantage in the workplace in Canada or abroad.

Students who decide to continue studying French as a second language should know that they are opening avenues for their future. It is important that they not only work hard in class, but also that they take the initiative to speak French outside the class. Exchange programs to Québec or France where students live with a host family are ideal for improving their fluency in French and will be a cultural experience they will keep with them forever.



Marcia Spooner
(née Winkel)
University
of Ottawa
Medicine Program

French Immersion Graduate
Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
Class of 1988

I graduated from the French Immersion program at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School in 1988. After completing a Science degree at Laurentian University, I attended Teachers' College at Nipissing University, then taught for the Rainbow District School Board for ten years. I am now completing my third year of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and expect to graduate in 2007.

My background in French has benefited me professionally and personally. I use French each week when dealing with patients in the hospital and at appointments. My patients and their families are truly thankful that I am able to speak with them in French. It creates a more personal and trusting environment. I appreciate understanding the language and being able to communicate effectively with others.

Many of my high school classmates have used their French on a daily basis. Speaking French has proven to be extremely beneficial for us in our careers.

I would encourage students to continue their studies in French. Knowing and using the French language can only prove to be an asset in one's life.



Captain Chloëann Summerfield (née Hanson)

Canadian Armed Forces – Valcartier, Québec
12e Régiment blindé du Canada, Escadron A

Core French Graduate
Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School – Class of 2000

Although not able to anticipate the direct impact the French language would eventually have, I knew that it could lead to great possibilities and adventures for me, given the chance. Immersed, from as early as Grade 1 in a program that introduced a knowledge base of the French language, I gained an appreciation and confidence that would one day provide me with the tools to fully operate in French.

By the time I graduated from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School in the Core French program in 2000, I had a stable base of the written French language. Being an officer in the Canadian forces, I have an obligation to be able to communicate in the language of other members, be it in French or in English.

Currently, I am posted to the 12e Régiment blindé du Canada in Valcartier, Québec, and function completely in French. The language base that I retained from the Core French program allowed me to quickly and easily transition to my second language, while instilling a feeling of confidence in familiarity.

Being able to communicate in both official languages opens the doors to possibilities, professionally as well as socially. Learning a language is not easy, but with the right tools and patience, it becomes an achievement well deserved.



Pandora Topp

Professional Artist and Entrepreneur

Core French Graduate
Lockerby Composite School – Class of 1989

I graduated from Lockerby Composite School in the Core French program in 1989. I then went to Laurentian University on a full entrance scholarship to study French. I continue to use French everyday with my family and in my work.

The study of French has been pivotal in my development as an artist. I perform in both languages and I am recognized as a professional working artist and entrepreneur in both the Anglophone and the Francophone communities. I currently perform in my own shows, three of which are French language based.

I have also raised my children with the benefits of both languages and they enjoy the opportunities afforded to them from both communities and cultures.

Having more than one language means having more opportunities here in Canada and abroad. It also expands our world view and our potential. It is the underpinning of social tolerance.

The greatest advice one could give to a young student would be to immerse oneself in another language and culture. I would encourage participation in exchanges with Francophone communities. It would create awareness and afford students the opportunity to not only speak the language but to live it as well.

Register Now!

Celebrate Education Week in Rainbow Schools

May 1 to 5, 2006. Visit www.rainbowschools.ca for details!



Rainbow Schools
Reaching minds.
Touching hearts.

Dena Morrison - Chair | Jean Hanson - Director of Education