



*The Late Immersion  
Program*

*at*

*École River Heights  
School*

**ÉRHS** *"The Gift of Another  
Language"*



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION  
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

## The Gift of Another Language

Have you considered all the options for Grade 7? Does a challenging and rewarding Middle Years program appeal to you? Were you aware that there is a Grade 7 entry point into the French Immersion Program?

At École River Heights School we offer a unique opportunity to participate in an internationally recognized and proven second language program.

Over the past 20 years, more than a thousand students from all areas of Winnipeg have enrolled in our Late Immersion Program.

Three decades of research shows that French Immersion is the most effective way for a child to become functionally bilingual. Many countries are now offering Immersion programs patterned on the Canadian model.

The ability to communicate effectively in another language provides Immersion graduates with an “extra edge” in an increasingly competitive global economy.

## Student Endorsements

“Going into Late Immersion was an excellent experience... the best choice I ever made.” Ashley, Grade 8

“I like the program because it’s very rewarding to be able to speak another language.” Laura, Grade 8

“When you learn a second language, it’s easier to learn others.” Elizabeth, Grade 8

“Knowing a second language will help in the future.” Stephanie, Grade 8

“At first I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to understand the teachers, but everyone was understanding and explained things really well.” Matt, Grade 8

“Late Immersion was and continues to be an asset to my social and academic confidence. It gave me the opportunity to experience the language with a secure English foundation.” Julie, Grade 12

## Features of the Program

- ✓ **Grade 7 Entry Point:** There are no second language prerequisites to enter the program. All that is required is a positive attitude and the motivation to learn a second language.
- ✓ **A Supportive Environment** in which students thrive academically and develop the confidence to communicate in a second language.
- ✓ **Knowledgeable and Committed Staff:** Our teachers are caring, experienced professionals, who are dedicated to additional language acquisition and who provide enriched academic content.
- ✓ **Learning Outcomes:** The high level of French proficiency is developed at no cost to students' English proficiency or to achievement in other academic subjects such as science or mathematics.
- ✓ **Communication:** As Immersion is a new experience for students, close communication between home and school is essential and contact between staff, students and parents is ongoing.
- ✓ **High School:** Depending on enrolment, students join the Early Immersion students at Kelvin High School in Grade 10. To achieve full bilingual competencies, students need to continue in the program until graduation. The Late Immersion experience also provides excellent preparation for the International Baccalaureate Program or Advanced Placement Program.
- ✓ **Post-Secondary Opportunities:** By the end of high school, Immersion graduates will have employment opportunities in either English or French or may pursue post-secondary education in either language.
- ✓ **Other Languages:** The Immersion experience gives students the skills and confidence to learn other languages.

- ✓ **Access to Supplementary Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities:** Students in all programs have access to the same course options in other languages, The Arts, Technology, as well as, a variety of extra curricular sports and activities.
- ✓ **Cultural Enrichment:** Immersion students are exposed to a variety of culturally enriching activities — performances, field trips, oratorical competitions, etc.
- ✓ **Characteristics of Successful Late Immersion Student:**

They:

- have average to above-average achievement at the elementary level
- are verbally-oriented students who like to communicate
- readily accept challenges
- show strengths in their first language
- have good auditory discrimination
- imitate easily and self-correct
- experiment without fear of making mistakes
- are usually attentive and focused

If you require additional information or wish to enroll your child in this program, contact the Principal at École River Heights School (204-488-7090). Appointments and classroom visitations will be arranged upon request.

A Parent Information Evening is held yearly in February at École River Heights School. Please check the calendar on our website for this year's event and registration deadline dates at [www.winnipegssd.ca/schools/riverheights](http://www.winnipegssd.ca/schools/riverheights).

Please note that this program is open to all students of The Winnipeg School Division, as well as other Divisions, subject to criteria outlined in the Schools of Choice provincial guidelines.

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