



Welcome to French Immersion at Merritt Secondary School



Why Continue French Immersion in High School?

French Immersion at the secondary level builds on the strong foundation established in elementary school. Continuing in the program helps students refine their ability to communicate, understand, and think critically in both French and English.

A second language is an asset in Canada and internationally. French Immersion students develop strong literacy skills, increased cognitive flexibility, and an appreciation of cultural diversity. These skills support future education, employment, travel, and personal growth.

Completing the French Immersion program through Grade 12 leads to the Dual Dogwood Diploma, an official recognition of advanced proficiency in French.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do students need to be fluent in French?

No. Fluency is not expected at the Grade 8 level, and students enter high school with a range of abilities. Most students become fluent in grade 11. Teachers use a variety of strategies to meet students where they are, helping them build confidence, take risks, and strengthen their speaking, reading, and writing skills over time.

Will my child fall behind in other courses (Math, Sciences, etc)?

No, FI students take concurrent curriculum to peers and then switch to English programs in Grade 10-12 for Math and Science. We have no evidence to suggest that students are behind in their learning when entering English stream course. Traditionally French immersion students score very well in their other classes.

Is my French Immersion child able to participate in band?

Yes. While there can occasionally be scheduling conflicts between the F.I. program and other courses, every effort is made to keep programs like band accessible to

F.I. students. Conflicts with band have been very rare in recent years, and we are often able to make flexible adjustments to accommodate student choices. Additionally, students have opportunities to participate in off-timetable music programs such as jazz band and vocal jazz, some of which can count toward report card credits.

Is my French Immersion child able to participate in Trades Programs?

Yes, participation in FI does not hinder participation in Trades programming. Some schedule changes may be needed to accommodate but this would be true of all students participating in a specialized program.

Will there be academic support in French?

Where appropriate, additional academic support is provided. For example, there is currently a French speaking Educational Assistant in the FI Grade 8/9 Sciences course and FI Grade 8/9 Sciences Humaines course every Thursday.

What Does French Immersion Look Like in Gr 8-12?

At Merritt Secondary School, French Immersion students follow the same BC curriculum as their peers in English programs. The only difference is the language of instruction for specific courses.

French Immersion students typically take:

- Français langue (Grades 8-12)
- Sciences humaines (Grades 8-11)
- Mathématiques (Grades 8-9)
- Sciences (Grade 8-9)
- Leadership (Grade 10/11) **Not every year**

English Language Arts continues in Grade 8 and each year after that. Students have access to all electives, specialty programs, sports teams, clubs, and extracurricular activities offered at the school. Graduates complete all required courses to earn both the regular Dogwood Diploma and the French Immersion Dogwood Diploma.

Typical course sequence

Core subjects (e.g., Français langue, Sciences Humaines, Mathématique, etc)

Grade 8: Français langue 8, Sciences 8, Sciences Humaines 8, Mathématiques 8

Grade 9: Français langue 9, Sciences 9, Sciences Humaines 9, Mathématiques 9

Grade 10: Français langue 10, Sciences Humaines 10, (Leadership 10)

Grade 11: Français langue 11, Sciences Humaines 10, (Leadership 11)

Grade 12: Français langue 12

Hours of instruction in French

Grade 8: 480 Hours

Grade 9: 480 Hours

Grade 10: 240-360 Hours

Grade 11: 240-360 Hours

Grade 12: 120 Hours

Transition Information for Grade 7 Families

Merritt Secondary School supports a smooth move to high school. Students can expect:

- Grade 6/7 & MSS F.I. collaboration activities throughout the school year
- French Immersion classroom and school tours
- Spring Transition visits
- LINKS- This starts in August with an Orientation day of activities
- Follow up LINKS activities in the fall
- Time to adjust to new routines, schedules, and expectations
- In the F.I. classroom: There is lots of focus on building vocabulary and fluency in reading, writing and speaking

Sample daily schedule

Four blocks per day each semester

Time	Blocks	Subject
8:30	Warning Bell	
8:35-9:53	Block A	Sciences Humaines 8
9:57-11:15	Block B	Electives
11:15-11:25	Break	
11:25	Warning Bell	
11:29-12:47	Block C	Mathématiques 8
12:47-1:38	Lunch	
1:38	Warning Bell	
1:42-3:00	Block D	PE 8

Example of a Gr 8 course timetable (F.I. vs English track)

Semester 1	Semester 2
A-Sciences Humaines 8 <i>(English: Social Studies 8)</i>	A-English Language Arts
B-Electives	B-Electives
C- Mathématiques 8 <i>(English: Math 8)</i>	C-Sciences 8 <i>(English: Science 8)</i>
D- PE 8	D-Français langue 8 <i>(English: Language 8 e.g. Core French)</i>

Dual Dogwood Diploma

Students who complete the required French Immersion coursework graduate with a Dual Dogwood Diploma. This diploma is recognized by post secondary institutions and employers across Canada.

Benefits include:

- Advanced standing or credit in some university programs
- Increased competitiveness for scholarships
- Recognition of high-level second language proficiency

Requirements

- At least 16 credits at the Grade 12 level (*including a Français langue seconde-immersion course at the Grade 12 level*)
- Français langue seconde-immersion 10 (4 credits)
- Français langue seconde-immersion 11 (4 credits)
- Français langue seconde-immersion 12 (4 credits)
- At least 12 more credits in Grade 10, 11, or 12 courses that are in French with at least 4 of these credits at the Grade 11 or 12 level

In addition, French Immersion students must also complete four Provincial Graduation Assessments, three in literacy and one in numeracy.

Grade 8 registration information

French Immersion continues seamlessly; students currently enrolled simply indicate they are continuing in FI when completing Grade 8 course selection. The deadline to move programs is September 15th, 2026.

School and Contact information

Merritt Secondary School

Grades 8-12

1561 Chapman St,
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
250-378-5131

MSS Counsellor contacts

Students are assigned one of two counsellors based on their last name. This is a new process for 26/27 school year.

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