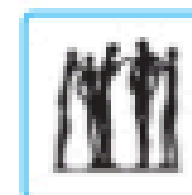


Intensive French at Elboya School

presentation by: Mme Mélanie Martin/Mme Elizabeth Humby



learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

School information

- **Open House !**
Thursday February 5, 2026
6:00- 7:30 pm
- **School hours:**
 - 9:10 am – 3:44 pm (Monday to Thursday)
 - 9:10 am – 1:00 pm (Friday)
- **Enrollment**
 - A total of 571 students

Composition

- Elboya is a triple track school
- a) regular program
 - b) French immersion
 - c) Late French Immersion



What is Intensive French?

Intensive French (IF) is a research-based approach to teaching French that follows the **Neurolinguistic Approach (NLA)**, developed by Germain and Netten.

The approach is based on how the brain learns language. Students develop two types of grammar:

- **Internal grammar** (unconscious): built through listening and speaking to support natural communication.
- **External grammar** (conscious): learned through instruction to support reading and writing.

Because speaking and writing develop differently in the brain, IF intentionally teaches both, helping students gain confidence, fluency, and accuracy in French.

The NLA Approach



This loop occurs once each day to ensure students receive a balanced literacy experience, in alignment with NLA theory.

Why Intensive French?

Studies have indicated that students who are exposed to an intensive period of a 2nd language **show greater progress** than students exposed to the same number of hours of instruction spread out over a longer time period.

Lapkin, Swain & Shapson (1990s)

Research on Intensive French vs Core French in Canadian contexts.

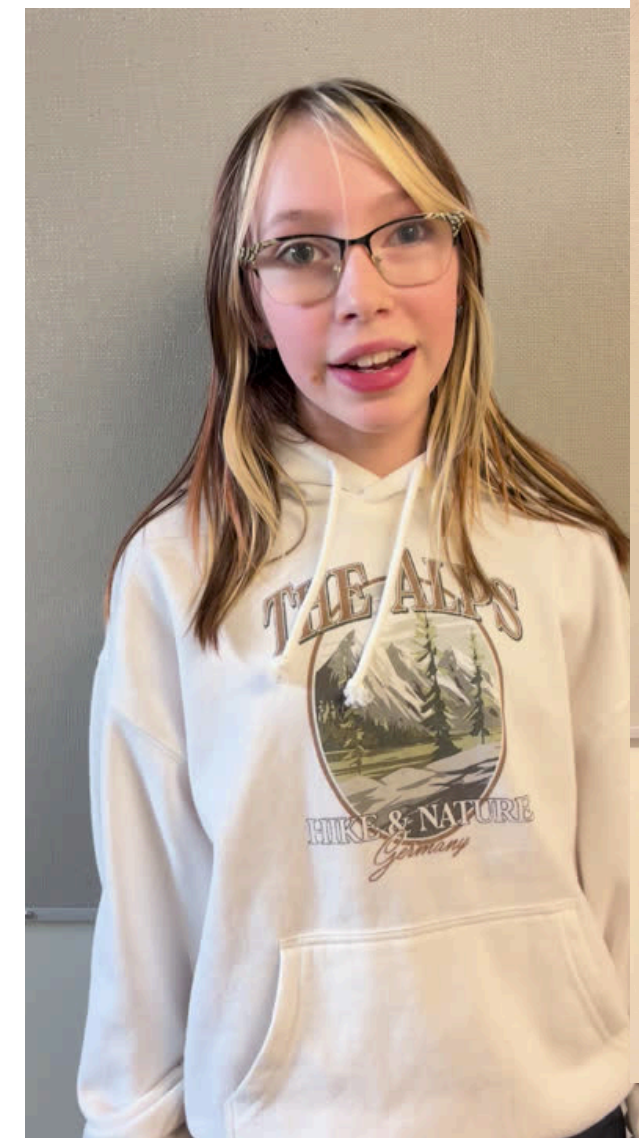
Intensive vs Immersion

Immersion: students learn subjects with French as the language of instruction, exposed to French most of the day

Intensive: focus is on learning the French language via themes relevant to the students' lives

Advantages of the Intensive French Program

- You can make new friends
- A new challenge
- Learning a new language



What is Intensive French?

Example of a Grade 6 Timetable (2025-26)

- **Term 1**

Intensive French (at least 50% of the time)

Math

ELAL

Phys Ed

2 Option Courses

- **Term 2**

Science (condensed curriculum)

Social Studies (condensed curriculum)

ELAL

Phys Ed

French (about two hours weekly)

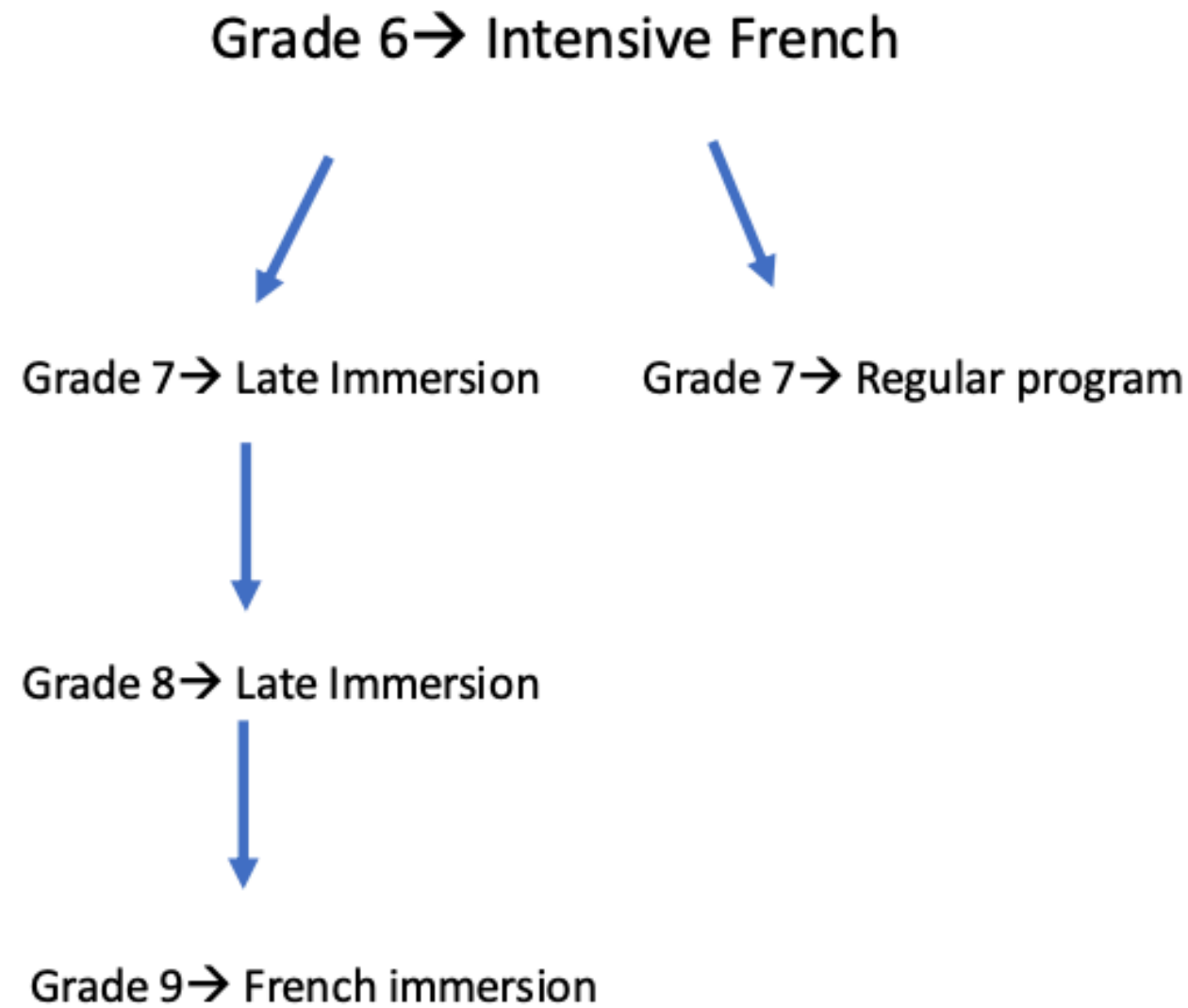
2 Option Courses



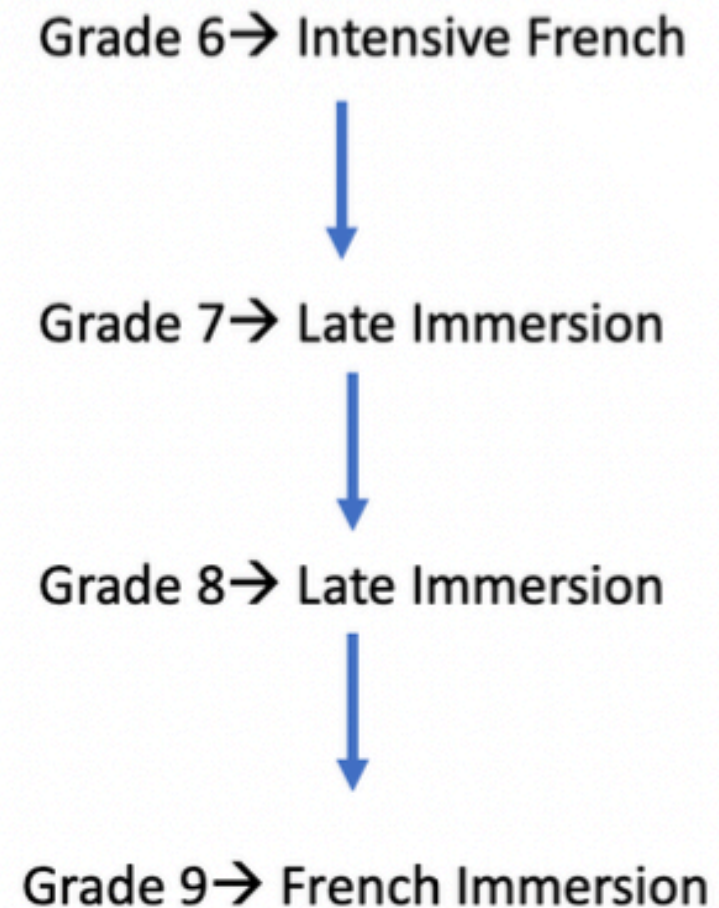


Academic Trajectory

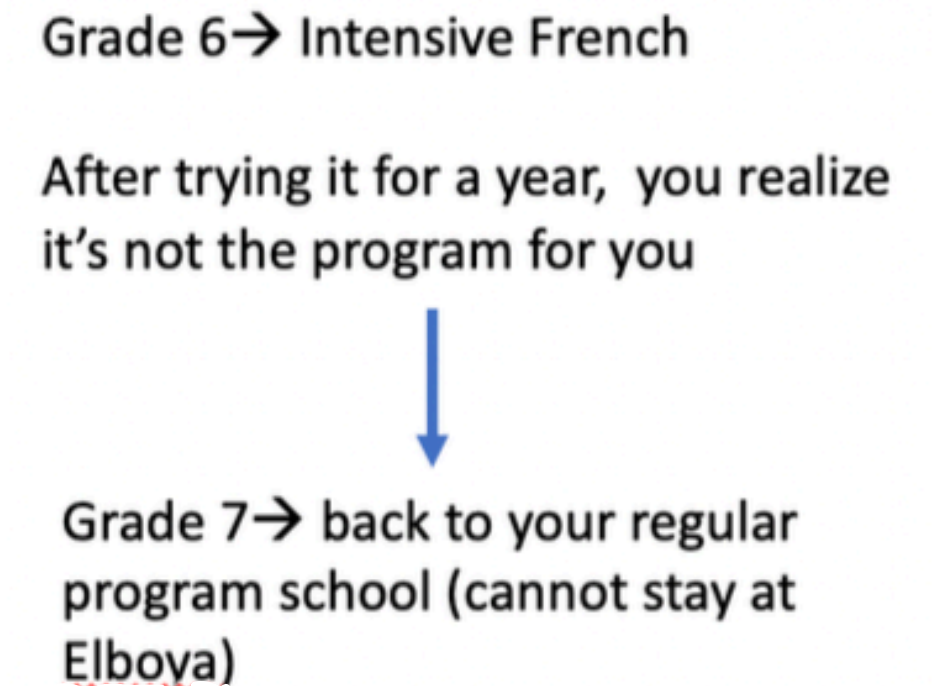
Elboya students (assigned school)



Students coming into Elboya (non-assigned school)



Students coming into Elboya (non-assigned school)



*If interest grows, program could be limited in registration

What can you expect at Elboya School?

- Biweekly Special Lunch
- Spirit days & House System
- Lockers
- Intramurals & Clubs
- Many athletic opportunities
- Band and Drama program
- Field trips (Outdoor School, Band Camp and Québec)





Calgary Board
of Education

Transportation Considerations

- ❑ transportation for grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates are provided)
- ❑ parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- ❑ Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#)
- ❑ Congregated stops may not be within walking distance and alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop

Is my child a good candidate?

- Is your child looking for a new adventure?
- Do they have good work ethic?
- Do they like to learn new things?
- Are they okay with taking risks and making mistakes?



FAQs

1. As a parent, do I have to know French?

No, it is not necessary for you to know French.

2. What can I do to help if I don't know French?

You can support your child by asking them to tell you what they're learning. It is also important that they know that you are encouraging them to learn French.

3. Will my child have a lot of extra homework to do?

The primary goal is for your child to develop spontaneous use of the language. Your child will have minimal homework (usually less than 10 minutes a night).

4. Will the teacher speak French all the time?

Yes. English will be used by the teacher for the first few days at the beginning of the Intensive French program. The rest of the time, the teacher will speak French during those assigned periods.

5. What happens if my child cannot keep up with the French?

When students are putting in the effort, keeping up with the French is not a problem. The approach is one that appeals to the concept of multiple intelligences, and the teacher uses many different learning strategies to ensure that all children are participating in the learning process to the extent of their abilities.

Questions

