

November 10th, 2025

Dear Grade 5 families,

As you may be aware, the Richmond School District offers full time, Late French Immersion programs beginning at Grade 6 at James Whiteside and John Diefenbaker Elementary schools.

The Late French Immersion program is a unique District program designed for 10 and 11 year-old students who have completed grade 5, who do not speak French but who are interested in becoming functionally bilingual (French and English). In grade 6, 100% of the BC curriculum is taught with an emphasis on students acquiring French language skills: reading, writing and speaking. Students do not receive English Language Learner (ELL) support in grade 6. In grade 7, English Language Arts are reintroduced while other subjects continue to be taught in French.

Program Information Virtual Meeting:

If you are interested in learning more about Late French Immersion, please join our Virtual Information meeting on **December 3rd, 2025 at 6:00 PM.**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[Click here](#)

Meeting ID: 229 724 015 019 1

Passcode: iH7eH3pd

High School Continuation:

The program continues at Robert McMath and Hugh McRoberts Secondary schools.

Application Information:

The applications for admission to Late Immersion program is open until January 16th, 2025 for the 2025/2026 school year. To apply please complete the District Options Online Application:

<https://dpoapplication.sd38.bc.ca>

The application does not constitute registration. The following selection procedure will apply to all the applications. Siblings who will attend concurrently in a Late Immersion program will be offered placements, followed by those applicants without siblings. The names of those without siblings will be entered into a random draw. Students that cannot be accommodated will be placed on a wait list in the order in which their name is drawn and offered placement as space permits.

Families will be informed of the status of their application on Tuesday, February 10th, 2026. If offered placement, families will have 48 hours to accept. Families who might be away when contact is made, should include alternate telephone numbers on their application form. *Anyone moving is responsible for ensuring their new address and telephone number are provided to the school.* Please click [here](#) for important dates to note.

Sincerely,

Brooke Douglas
Director of Instruction – Curriculum and Assessment