



Bonjour!

Cyril Varney Public School

WHAT IS “CORE FRENCH”?

Core French—also known as basic French, or French as a second language—is taught as one subject within a school’s curriculum. Provinces/territories, school boards and individual schools all have a hand in shaping core French programs. Therefore, the particular grade at which core French is introduced varies, as does the amount of classroom time and intensity of instruction. Two and a half million elementary and secondary students are studying in core French programs. They are an impressive testament to the value of learning more than one language—here in Canada, and in an ever more interconnected world.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS LOOK FOR IN A CORE FRENCH PROGRAM?

The ideal core French program should:

- Start as early as possible in the elementary grades and continue through to the end of secondary school.
- Deliver a minimum of 30 to 40 minutes of daily instruction by grade three or four.
- Be taught by teachers fluent in French, and trained in second language education.
- Use French as the predominant language in the classroom.
- Encourage students to actively participate in tasks and projects.
- Provide access to books, audio-visual materials and computer programs in the French language.

[At Cyril Varney] Our mission is to provide a caring environment that encourages all staff and students to reach their full potential. With parents as our partners in education and professional collaboration between staff, we strive to support the academic, emotional and social growth of all of our students.
—Bob Deeth, principal

It is my mission to be open to children’s interests, needs and learning styles. My goal as a second language teacher is to light a spark in my students eyes and in their hearts, to ignite a desire in them to learn a second language, to have them discover the beauty of a new culture and to foster an appreciation for diversity.

—Mme Lynch, Core French Teacher

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with pleasure and dedication, that I offer you this guide to your child’s Core French instruction. I have created it, in hopes that you find it informative and practical.

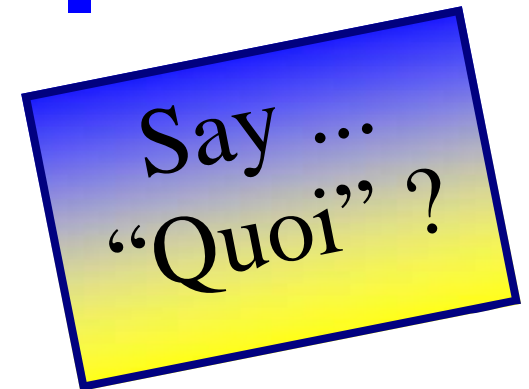
Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. Parents can be of great assistance by being supportive of the program!

À bientôt!

Mme Natalie Lynch

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A Mini Guide to Your Child’s Core French Experience



**Mme Natalie Lynch
Core French Teacher**

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Experts agree that bilingualism offers distinct advantages. Here are some excerpts from recent research:

Learning a second language at an early age:

- has a positive effect on intellectual growth;
- enriches and enhances a child's mental development;
- leaves students with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening;
- improves a child's understanding of his/her native language;
- gives a child the ability to communicate with people s/he would otherwise not have the chance to know;.
- opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries;
- gives a student a head start in language requirements for college; and
- increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language is a real asset.

I DON'T KNOW FRENCH MYSELF. CAN I STILL HELP MY CHILD?

Don't worry; there is no expectation that parents will be able to understand or speak French. However, there are many things you can do to ensure your child's second-language experiences both positive and lasting. Encouragement is the key. Be supportive and enthusiastic. Research shows that students whose parents have positive attitudes to French do better in core French programs. Turn the tables – let your child teach you French! This will build his or her confidence and self-esteem. You can also help your child by exposing him or her to French language and culture outside the school. Any activity that allows use of the language builds skill, vocabulary and confidence. (www.cpf.ca)

*If I was
going to
give my child
something that would last
them all their life,
something that would
enhance their ability to travel
and enhance their employment capacity,
enhance their ability to appreciate other cultures
and make bridges of understanding,
I don't think there's a better gift
I could give my child than
a capacity in
a second language.*

*Stuart Wachowicz,
Edmonton Public Schools*

- Get to know your child's teacher, and participate in parent teacher interviews.
- Borrow, rent or buy French-language books and videos (almost all community libraries will either have some, or can order them.)
- Watch French-language television with your child.
- Tune into French-language radio when your child is at home.
- Encourage extracurricular and community activities that bring your child in contact with the French language and culture.
- Read to your child in English to foster a love of language.

Being bilingual is like going to a brain gym!
- Ellen Bialystok, York University psychologist and research professor

*Bilingualism is part and parcel of what Canada is
- a resource that benefits all of us in countless ways.*
- Dyane Adam, Commissioner of Official Languages