

**World Languages Department
Milton Public Schools
2008-2009**

French Immersion, Grades 1-12:

A **French Immersion Program** began in the Milton Public School System at the Mary A. Cunningham Elementary School in 1987 with two classes in grade one. Each year, a new grade with two or three classes was added at the Cunningham School. In 1991, a first grade class began at the Glover Elementary School. In 1992, a first grade class was added to both the Tucker and the Collicot. Since 1992, all four elementary schools have added at least one class per grade level each year as the program expanded into the middle school and the high school.

There are currently (September 2008) **61 classes** in grades 1-12 in the French Immersion program. The Cunningham school has eight classes in grades 1-5 for a total of 171 students. Collicot has six classes with 132 students. Glover has 10 classes with 216 students. Tucker has five classes for a total of 94 students. The total number of students at each grade level system wide is:

	First Grade:	154	
	Second Grade:	127	
	Third Grade:	138	
	Fourth Grade:	97	
	Fifth Grade:	<u>97</u>	
	Total students from grades 1-5	613	29 classes
French)	Sixth Grade:	71	69 (Social Studies in
	Seventh Grade:	83	77 (Humanities in French)
	Eighth Grade:	83	79 (Humanities in French)
	Nine through 12	<u>254</u>	
	Total students from grades 6-12	491	33 classes
	Grand Total	1104	62 classes

In June 1998, the first French Immersion students graduated from Milton High School. Since 1998, many students from the French Immersion program have been the top ranking student in the graduating class with a large percentage of French Immersion students in the top 20% of the class.

Curriculum:

The curriculum for the French Immersion Program is based on the guidelines of the Milton Public School Curriculum and the Curriculum Frameworks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Instruction in the program in grades one and two is entirely in French for language arts, math, science, and social studies. Art, music, and physical education are taught in English at all levels.

In grades three and four, one half of the total instructional time is in French and one half is in English. Social studies and science are instructed in French. Math is taught in English. The language arts curriculum which includes comprehension, silent and oral reading, handwriting, spelling, creative writing, grammar and vocabulary, is taught both in French and English, each for one half of the instructional time allotted to language arts. Beginning in the 2008 – 2009 school year, students in French Immersion and English are integrated for Math classes daily in all four schools. Two school also mix English and French students for some Language Arts instruction.

In grade five, thirty percent of the instruction is in French and seventy percent is in English. Science and a portion of language arts are taught in French. Math and social studies are taught in English.

In grade six, French Immersion students continue their instruction in French language arts for one period per day and social studies in French for one period per day. In grades seven and eight, French Immersion students study French language and literature for one period per day and are enrolled in a class in culture/humanities, taught in French, once every other day. Although taught in the elective block, the second French class is a requirement for students who wish to take the full range of immersion classes available at the high school.

Students who do not take the social studies/humanities classes taught at the Pierce during their three years at the Middle school may be evaluated to determine their placement in French classes at the high school. Students who do not take all the language courses offered at the middle school could be recommended to take French as a Second Language courses or French Immersion level A instead of French Immersion Honors and Advanced Placement Language and Literature at the high school.

At the high school, students in the Immersion program may take at least one class in French per day. French Immersion students may also complete courses in Advanced Placement Language and Advanced Placement Literature in grades eleven and twelve. They may also choose an additional language beginning in grade nine, thereby giving them the opportunity to take additional Advanced Placement classes in Spanish or Latin in their junior and/or senior year. Please note: The College Board has DROPPED French Literature as an Advanced Placement Class after the 2008-2009 school year. Because of this decision, we will review our French curriculum this year and make appropriate changes for the 2009-2010 school year.

Instruction:

There are 36 instructors who teach in our French-Immersion Program. Our instructors are French, French Canadian, Canadian, Cape Verdian, African, Russian, Vietnamese, American with French ancestry, and Americans who majored in French in college. Immersion teachers are fluent speakers of the language and must be certified or certifiable on the level in which they teach. All of our books and materials come from France, Canada, and the United States. Many of our materials are created by teachers and shared with others who teach the same level at the other schools.

Spanish FLES* (Foreign Languages in the Elementary Schools) Grades 2-5:

A **Spanish FLES** program began at the Tucker school as a pilot program in grade one in 1998. The following year, a FLES program was introduced at each of the elementary schools with a pilot at Tucker for grade two. Until the 2006-2007 school year, all students, from grade one through five, not enrolled in the French Immersion program received instruction in Spanish for two hours per week (4 periods of 30 minutes each) at each of the elementary schools. As of September 2008, Spanish is offered to students from grade two through five with 30 minutes of instruction in grade two and 3 periods of 30 minutes each in grades three through five in all four elementary schools.

Students currently enrolled in Spanish FLES:

Collicot 2-5:	199
Cunningham 2-5:	195
Glover 2-5:	214
Tucker 2-5:	<u>85</u>
Total 2-5	513