

FRENCH IMMERSION GRADE TWO



Bienvenue en Deuxième Année!

The curriculum for the French Immersion Program is based on the guidelines of the Milton Public School Curriculum, the Curriculum Frameworks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the National Standards for Foreign Languages. Instruction in Second Grade is entirely in French for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Second Grade students will participate in all academic activities in the target language. They will actively develop their linguistic proficiency and begin to apply non-language specific skills in all aspects of the curriculum in an independent manner.

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Listening and Speaking in French

Second Grade students will continue to develop oral proficiency by interacting in the target language on a daily basis in the French immersion classroom and by learning new content-based vocabulary and language structures in meaningful contexts. Students will be encouraged at all times to speak French in the immersion classroom. Accuracy will be obtained through repetition, modeling and increasing linguistic awareness. The development of oral language proficiency will assist students in their progressive mastery of reading and writing skills. The teaching of grammar will be progressively introduced and will be systematically embedded in real communicative contexts.

By the end of Second Grade, French Immersion students will be able to:

- Demonstrate enhanced listening and comprehension skills
- Follow instructions in the target language and actively participate in all French Immersion activities
- Express their feelings and needs in French using simple vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
- Discuss in French familiar topics and content-based materials
- Recite a wide range of songs, poems and rhymes with near-native accent
- Give short presentations in the target language
- Begin to use linking words (i.e., and, because, but, or) to connect and organize ideas

Reading and Writing in French

Second Grade students will continue to develop Language Arts skills following the Milton Public School Curriculum and the Curriculum Frameworks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The development of literacy skills – which are transferable and non-language specific - will continue through a balanced literacy approach offering a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. The *Gafî* reading method remains at the center of instruction (level 2).

By the end of Second Grade, French Immersion students will be able to:

- Read and demonstrate understanding of various simple fiction and non-fiction French texts
- Read aloud using French pronunciation
- Identify key literary and grammatical elements in written materials
- Write simple sentences in French to express understanding, opinions and appreciation of texts read in class
- Write short texts for specific purposes (stories, reports, projects)

- Follow language conventions (capitals, punctuation, sentence order, etc.)
- Follow basic spelling and grammar rules such as the following: agreements (gender and number), basic conjugation of regular verbs in affirmative, negative and interrogative forms, use of subject and possessive pronouns, use of complete sentences

Love of Reading: A *highly transferrable asset!*

Second Grade French Immersion teachers emphasize the interaction between readers and texts in compliance with the Massachusetts Core Standards for Reading and Language Arts. The *Reader's Workshop model* provides time for students to read, think, and converse on a regular basis about books they have chosen to read. The main focus is to differentiate and personalize instruction to accommodate the learning needs of each student while cultivating a love of reading. Instruction consists of mini-lessons that provide students with precise reading strategies. Students read independently before discussing with the class. The Reader's Workshop model is taught throughout the school year.

Language Arts Materials

Gafi Textbook and workbook, volume 2

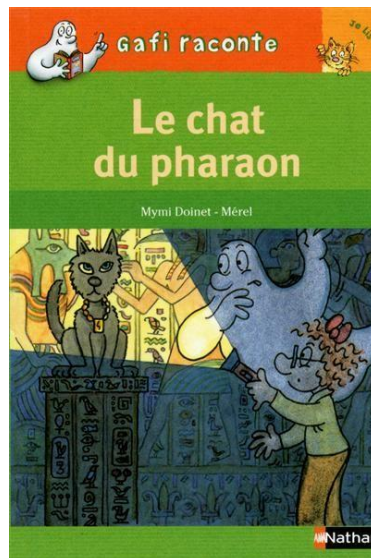
This reading method, created by the linguist Alain Bentolila, has been the best-seller reading method in French since 2003. Gafi is the hero of the collection. Milton teachers have created supplemental materials to support reading, vocabulary and writing skills.

Le Français Facile - 2nd Grade Workbooks 1 & 2

This very effective phonics and writing method was created by Martine Murphy, a teacher and reading specialist, currently teaching First Grade at the Glover School. Phonics skill instruction is based on a multisensory process that combines hearing, speaking, reading, writing, and kinesthetic reinforcement.

Readers' Workshop Collection

This model allows students to choose from a collection of authentic French texts according to their personal interest and reading level.



Frequently Asked Questions



What happens when my child begins English instruction in third grade?



French immersion students are able to transfer skills from one language to another in most academic areas as soon as they enter Third Grade. Literacy skills (such as phonemic awareness, decoding, use of contextual clues), critical reading, creative writing and problem-solving abilities are all non-language specific and therefore easily transferable.



Should I worry about my child's spelling in English?



Because immersion students are beginning formal English instruction in grade 3, it is expected that they need additional time to master the technical aspects of the English language (language conventions, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.). By grade 5 or 6, French Immersion students perform as well as their English Language Arts program peers.



Is it OK for my child to read in English at home?



Yes! As soon as your child understands the mechanisms of decoding a text (the ability to connect letters and sounds), she or he will be able to transfer this skill to the English language and begin to read.



If my child does not currently read in English, should I teach him or her to do so?



No, however you should continue to read aloud in English and share your love of reading together.



Why should I not translate?



Translation impedes progress. Immersion students don't learn to translate; rather, they acquire two distinct labels for one concept. What at home your child will call a book, a pencil or a bag, he or she will call at school *un livre, un crayon*

or *un sac*. Just as multilingual travelers switch languages, without internal translation, when they are in a foreign setting, so will French students when in the immersion classroom.

Useful Websites

<http://www.nathan.fr/gafi/>

http://pbskids.org/caillou_french/

<http://www.adibou.com/>

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4724>

www.readersworkshop.org

www.actfl.org

Gafi: website: information, games and activities

Caillou: TV cartoon character, games and activities in French

Abidou: Games and activities in French

American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages

Overview of Reader's Workshop instruction method

Benefits of language learning