

**Board approves new Early French Immersion Program for September 2022**

December 17, 2021

Dear Parents or Guardians,

As additional capacity emerges in the South Surrey Grandview Heights corridor east of Highway 99, the Surrey Board of Education has approved a new Early French Immersion Program to commence in September 2022.

The program will be started at Pacific Heights Elementary located at 17148 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. Registration for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 will be made available with a view to grow by one new division each year.

**Kindergarten:**

The online application for the 2022 Kindergarten for Programs of Choice Lottery opens on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> click [HERE](#) for the information flyer. Interested families of incoming Kindergarten students will need to apply by using the district choice program lottery system.

\*\*Families with Kindergarten children are reminded to register at their catchment/neighborhood school to secure a spot for their child. Once the lottery is completed, those selected (and have accepted a spot) will be removed from the catchment list. Those not selected through the lottery will still have a secured spot at their registered neighbourhood/catchment school.

**Grade 1:**

The grade 1 program will have 50% of the spots offered to families on existing Surrey School District French Immersion waitlist. 50% will be offered by school based lottery and the link for applying to the grade 1 lottery will open on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. All families, including those on waitlists are eligible for this lottery. Please note: Children do not need to have FRIMM Kindergarten experience to be eligible for grade 1.

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## Grade 2:

The grade 2 program will have 50% of the spots offered to families on existing waitlist. 50% will be offered by school based lottery and the link for applying to the grade 2 lottery will open on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. All families, including those on waitlists are eligible for this lottery.

Please note that for entry into the grade 2 program students must currently be enrolled in an existing French Immersion Program or be able to demonstrate same level verbal and written fluency in French.

## Timeline:

- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Early FRIMM parent information night (virtual)
- January 10<sup>th</sup> – Opening date for Regular Kindergarten catchment registration
- January 10<sup>th</sup> - Existing waitlisted students will be offered 50% of the spots at Pacific Heights in grade 1 or 2. Families who receive a Pacific Heights spot do not need to apply to the PH lottery. Sibling rule will apply.
- January 17<sup>th</sup> – Grade 1 and 2 school lottery for remaining Pacific Heights grade 1 and 2 spaces. Sibling rule will apply.
- January 24<sup>th</sup> –Lottery 2022 Programs of Choice – Online application opens (for Kindergarten Students)
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – Deadline to register for catchment school in order to apply online for Kindergarten Lottery
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – Online Kindergarten Lottery application closes
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup> – Random lottery draw takes place

Click [HERE](#) for information on the scheduled **parent information meetings for Kindergarten Lottery Programs and District Focus Programs.**

Once the lottery process is completed, the school families will be contacted with the offer of a space and the school will determine the configuration of the new program, with a maximum of

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four divisions in the upcoming 2022 school year. Class organization may include combined classroom configurations.

The school will maintain a wait list for emerging spaces at each grade in the event that a student moves out of the program. The Lottery will maintain the Kindergarten Wait List and then for the next year the wait list transfers to the Grade 1 waitlist and is turned over to the school to maintain. Waitlists for seats at grades 1 and above will be maintained by the school in the order they are received.

As previously shared, the final destination of the program will be determined by September 2024 and will align with the opening of Ta'talu Elementary, with the program then residing at one of these two schools who are in close proximity to each other and who both serve the populations east of Highway 99.

- The French Immersion Program will continue in Grade 8 onto Earl Marriott Secondary School (joining the other zone's FRIMM Programs).
- As with all choice programs, priority is not given to the hosting school community. It should also be noted that transportation is not provided to the program at any grade.

Policy regarding choice programs can be found [here](#).

We look forward to greeting new families in September! If you have any questions, please contact the district.

Sincerely,



Lynda Reeve  
Assistant Superintendent  
Surrey Schools