




FRENCH IMMERSION

Program Pathways
Our Lady of the Prairies

November 27, 2025





Fall 2023

From October 26 to December 5, 2023, ECSD engaged French Immersion families through in-person sessions and an online survey.

Fall 2024

Engaged French Immersion families through in-person sessions and an online survey. Recommendations made.

2024-2025 School Year

Began implementation at school level.

Fall 2025

Implementation of Division Level recommendations.

Engagement Timeline



Why Did We Engage?

Retention Rate

Currently, only 20% of students who start the program graduate in French Immersion.

Goals

To have a strong, viable K to 12 French Immersion Program.

To increase the retention rate so more students complete the full K to 12 program and experience the benefits of learning an additional language.





What We Heard

- Transition points (Grades 6–7 and 9–10) are major drop-off stages where students leave the program.
- School location and travel time are significant barriers to continuing in French Immersion.
- Families want fewer transitions and more continuity across grade levels.



How do we make decisions?



- ECSD used public participation feedback from our engagements to inform decisions that balance stakeholder input, fiscal responsibility, and Division priorities



What is Changing?

Starting in September 2026

- The Kindergarten to Grade 6 French Immersion program at Our Lady of the Prairies will move to Holy Cross Catholic Elementary/Junior High School
- Consolidates west-end ECSD French Immersion into a single Kindergarten to Grade 9 site





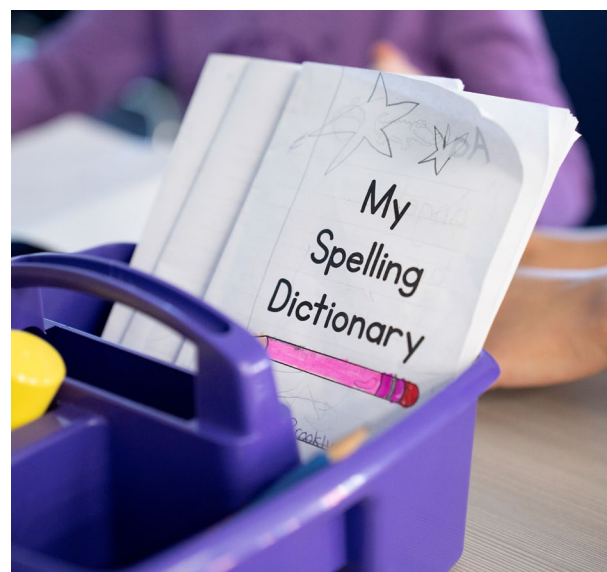
French Immersion – Common Ground

- Both dual track and single-track schools share:
 - The same Alberta curriculum.
 - English communication with families.
 - French in classrooms.
 - French cultural activities.
- Your child's foundation in French immersion remains strong.



Celebrate the Dual Track Experience

- Dual track schools have provided excellent learning opportunities.
- Students have benefited from dedicated teachers and supportive communities.
- These experiences have built confidence and skills in French.



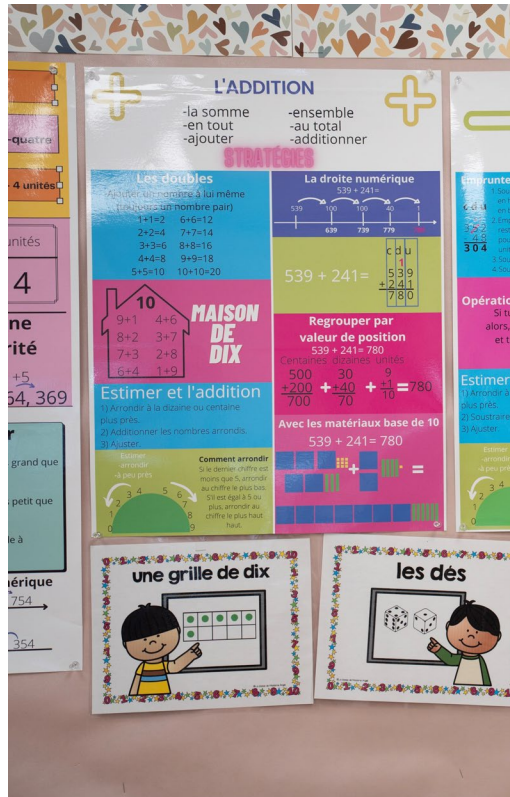


Why Move to a Single-Track Model

- Over the past 60 years, research has demonstrated that a linguistically rich environment and intensive exposure to French are key elements that allow students to gain the academic, cognitive and culture benefits of being in a French immersion program.
- A single-track school maximizes French exposure and provides students with a linguistically rich experience.



What Makes a Single-Track School Different?



- French everywhere
- Language of communication
- Specialist subjects in French
- Extra-curricular activities in French
- Community of learners
- Linguistically rich environment

These opportunities make a single-track school the most effective way to help students thrive and become truly bilingual.



Thriving in a Vibrant French Community

- By moving to this site, your children will:
 - Continue receiving high-quality education.
 - Gain more authentic opportunities to speak French every day.
 - Be part of a vibrant, fully French-speaking community.
 - This is not about losing something—it's about building on what your child has already achieved and giving them even more chances to succeed.





LIFE AT HOLY CROSS

Out of School Care

There are two out of school care opportunities at Holy Cross:

- All-day preschool
- Before and after school care



Holy Cross

Single-Track French Immersion

- Same grade collaborations for students
- Unique cultural experiences in French
- Elementary recess clubs
- Lunchtime homework support Grd.4-9
- After school tutoring offered in French by FRAP, community partner, Grd.4-9
- Junior High Athletics
- Trip to Quebec in Grade 9
- We are an Apple School!

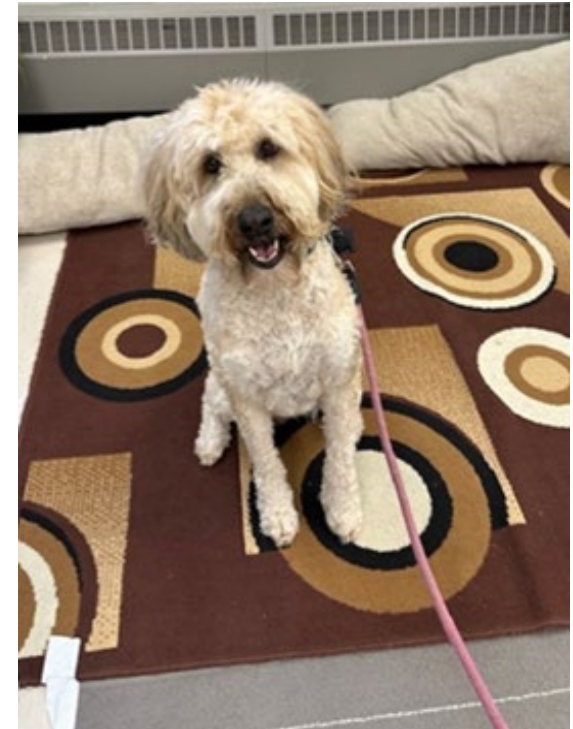


Cross-graded activities, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Social justice





We are a warm and welcoming K-9 school with families growing together inclusively.





**WHAT THIS MEANS
FOR YOU**

To Continue in French Immersion

- French Immersion Our Lady of the Prairies students will be directed to Holy Cross in the pre-enrolment period in February 2026.





Transportation

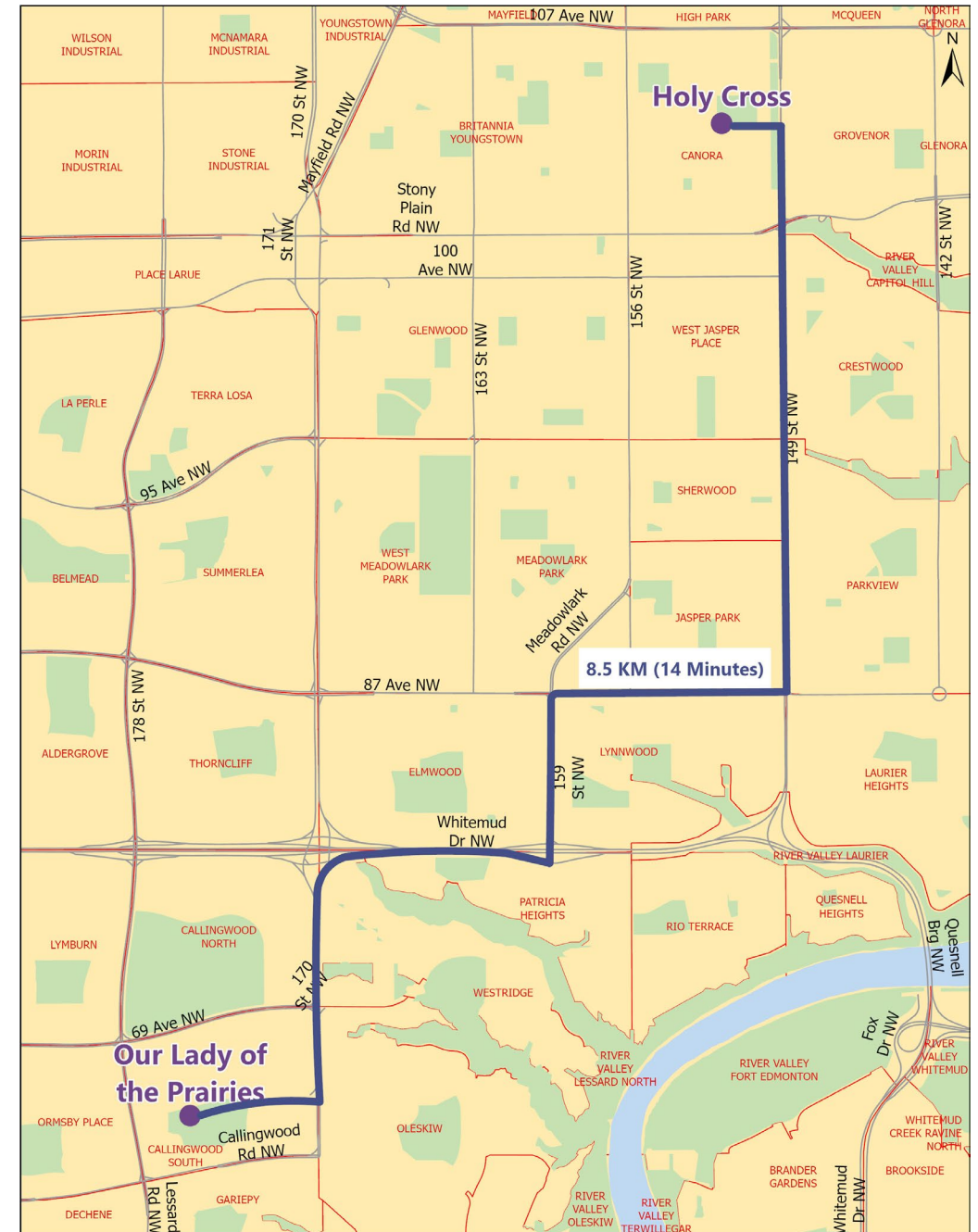
Our Lady of the Prairies Students to Holy Cross

- Students currently accessing transportation to Our Lady of the Prairies will continue to receive transportation to Holy Cross.
- All students that previously walked to Our Lady of the Prairies, will be eligible for bus transportation to Holy Cross.
- Grades 7 to 9 students attending Holy Cross will be eligible for yellow bus service.



Transportation Ride Times

- **14 minutes** – average drive time between Our Lady of the Prairies and Holy Cross
- **36 minutes** – average ride time for Our Lady of the Prairies students to Holy Cross by yellow bus



French Immersion - Our Lady of the Prairies Engagement



Questionnaire

Provide your feedback:

- Visit ecsd.net/ongoing-initiatives
- Scan the QR code



MERCI!



Opérations réciproques

Elles s'annulent.

$$\underline{\underline{6}} + \boxed{\cancel{5} - \cancel{5}} = \underline{\underline{6}}$$

$$\underline{\underline{2}} - \boxed{\cancel{3} + \cancel{3}} = \underline{\underline{2}}$$

$$2 \boxed{\times 3 \div 3} = 2$$

$$2 \boxed{\div 3 \times 3} = 2$$

$$\sqrt[2]{16} = \sqrt[2]{4^2} = 4$$