



LAURIER MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL



MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM

Language policy

Context

Laurier Macdonald High School is a public English-language school located in the Province of Quebec where the official language is French. Its student population is about 725 students from Secondary 1 to Secondary 5 (Grades 7 to 11). The student population reflects diverse ethnic and cultural communities, with prominent European descent and heritage. Over 80% of the students are born in Quebec and use English as their first language. French is the first language of about 5% of students. Other first languages spoken by the students of Laurier Macdonald High School include Chinese, Tamil, Portuguese, and Spanish.

To be able to attend an English school in Quebec, students must have a Certificate of Eligibility. The criteria for obtaining such a certificate are outlined in the Charter of the French Language (section 73, 76 and 86.1) and on the Ministère de l'Éducation et l'Enseignement supérieur website. They include:

- Children who are residing in Québec permanently and who qualify for a certificate of eligibility for instruction in English
- Children who are residing in Québec permanently and who are entitled to receive instruction in English under a special authorization
- Children who are living in Québec temporarily and who qualify for a temporary authorization to receive instruction in English¹

A certificate of eligibility is generally issued to children:

- Who have received the majority of their elementary or secondary school instruction in English in Canada;
- Whose brother or sister did the majority of his or her elementary or secondary studies in English in Canada;

¹ <http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#:~:text=Who%20is%20eligible%20to%20attend,following%20three%20situations%20are%20eligible%20%3A&text=children%20who%20are%20residing%20in%20Qu%26%20permanently%20and%20who%20are,English%20under%20a%20special%20authorization>

- Whose father or mother did the majority of his or her elementary studies in English in Canada;
- Whose father or mother attended school in Québec after August 26, 1977, and could have been declared eligible for instruction in English at that time²

Philosophy

The use of a first, second, or third language allows students to understand literature and the different texts we use every day. When presented through a variety of media, the types of writing selected and the context in which they are studied, students are given an opportunity to discover the richness, diversity, and complexity of the world and of humankind. (QEP, Languages, p.81)

Through language, students gain a greater understanding and development of global citizenship, and they acquire a more concrete understanding of the attributes of the IB Learner Profile. Language learning that includes an additional language, along with honouring and supporting the mother tongue language, develops international understanding, global awareness, and citizenship. We feel this reinforces cultural identity and develops a greater sense of community. All members of the community play an active role in language development. It is the responsibility of each member of the school community to ensure that language is appreciated and developed accordingly.

Languages offered at Laurier Macdonald High School

English is the primary language of instruction in the school, however, French language instruction is mandatory to receive the Quebec High School Leaving Diploma. Students must attend French classes ranging from basic to mother-tongue throughout the MYP, and they are encouraged to expand their French instruction by attending classes taught in French in the regular program and IBMYP. Both English and French language instruction are mandatory subjects in the Quebec curriculum. In addition, all students enrolled in the IBMYP must take Spanish classes in their first three years of IBMYP.

The majority of the student population have been in the English school system in Quebec since primary school. Many students have been in French immersion programs within the English schools for their elementary schooling. Studying French as a second language is not new for them, and in most cases, students have also taken content-courses taught in French.

When attending Laurier Macdonald High School, students have the opportunity to attend two mother-tongue classes, English and French, as they are exposed to French culture every day. Students are placed into French mother-tongue following a French placement exam prior to MYP year 1. Students not placed in the French mother-tongue course follow the Enriched French as a Second Language program.

² Idem

Languages offered at Laurier Macdonald High School

Students in the English core courses are taught in English except for one second-language course instruction in French.

IBMYP Program:

When attending Laurier Macdonald High School, students have the opportunity to attend two mother-tongue classes, English and French, as they are exposed to French culture every day. Students are placed into French mother-tongue following a French placement exam prior to MYP year 1. Students not placed in the French mother-tongue course follow the Enriched French as a Second Language program.

All MYP students follow the English mother-tongue as the Language and Literature MYP subject group. It adheres to the Secondary English Language Arts Program (SELA) of the Quebec Education Program (QEP) as well as the Language and Literature MYP objectives. Further enrichment is also included, as mandated by the Société des Écoles du Monde du Baccalauréat International du Québec et de la Francophonie (SÉBIQ). Student groups are homogeneous IB groups.

Enriched French as a Second Language adheres to the Enriched French Secondary Language Program of the Quebec Education Program (QEP) and the Language Acquisition MYP objectives. Further enrichment is also included, as mandated by the Société des Écoles du monde du Baccalauréat International du Québec et de la francophonie (SÉBIQ). IB students who are not placed in the French mother-tongue course are placed in the Enriched French as a Second Language program.

All students regardless of their level of French take Spanish as a third language. Spanish is mandatory for all MYP students from Year 1 to Year 3. The program follows the IBMYP Language Acquisition objectives and assessment criteria as well as the Spanish program of the Quebec Education Program (QEP).

Students in MYP Y1 and 2 have the majority of their subjects offered in English except for their French Second Language or French as a mother-tongue instruction. All French courses are Enriched and at the capable level (phase 4). Each French course is taught for 75 minutes, six times on a nine-day cycle. They must also follow their Geography and History courses in French. Students in MYP 1-2 are also exposed to Spanish as a third language. The Spanish course is taught at the emergent (phase 2) level and is taught for 75 minutes, two times on a nine-day cycle.

MYP Y3 students continue in the same French level they were in Year 1 and 2. In some cases, students who are excelling in Enriched French as a Second Language are placed into the French mother-tongue course. Each French course is taught for 75 minutes, six times on a nine-day cycle.

They continue to have their History course in French as well as a Spanish class taught for 75 minutes, four times on a nine-day cycle. There is also a possibility of other subjects to be taught in French depending on availability.

MYP Y4 students continue in the same French level they were in Year 3. In some cases, students who are excelling in the Enriched French as a Second Language are placed into the mother-tongue French course. At the end of the year, students in the mother-tongue French course must pass the national French as a Second Language course to obtain their High School Leaving Diploma. At this level, the History course is the only content-subject taught in French.

MYP Y5 students continue in the same French level they were in Year 4. At this level, students cannot be placed into the mother-tongue French course. At this level, no other content-subject course is taught in French, but there is possibility of other subjects depending on availability.

All language courses, English, French, and Spanish, are organized in such a way as to develop all the IBMYP objectives as well as the QEP objectives, the same applies for assessments.

Support for Student Learning³

Successful language learning can be enhanced through a support system within the school.

Student learning is supported primarily by the classroom teacher. Learning is further supported by the English Language Arts and French as Second Language community, which includes LEARN, and by subject-specific pedagogical consultants from the School Board. Student learning is also supported by:

- Visits to libraries
- Use of Rosetta Stone software
- Extra tutoring is available for students having difficulties in French
- Efficient peer tutoring system organized by the guidance counselors and language teachers
- Use of grammar and reference books
- Use of assistive technology
- School activities such as field trips and cultural activities
- Novels in diverse languages available school library

³ Laurier Macdonald hosts some international students in Grades 7 to 11. These students are competent in English language but are lacking in the French language. The resources mentioned above are available for the exchange students.

We believe in the acquisition of more than one language as a means to enrich personal growth, enhance cognitive development, and facilitate international understanding. All teachers regardless of the subject they teach are language teachers. They promote open-mindedness, knowledge acquisition and the development of global citizens. Language learning does more than promote cognitive growth; it is crucial for maintaining cultural identity and emotional stability.

References:

Charter of the French language

GPI

Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur

www.ibo.org