

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Re: French as a Second Language Programming**

As we strive to provide our students with a high quality and rich French as a Second Language experience, Red Deer Catholic Regional Division will be moving the French Second Language program from Grade 4 and 5 and revitalizing it at the middle school level for the 2020-2021 school year. In the past, students were offered French as a Second Language in Grade 4 and 5 to provide them with some preliminary exposure to a language and culture that was different from their own. As a Division, we have been experiencing challenges with accessing second language specialists in our elementary schools to provide consistent and high quality programming in all of our schools. As a result of this challenge, it has been increasingly difficult to offer quality second language instruction which could hinder students' interest in pursuing a second language course in the middle school or high school years. With the removal of instructional time from French language, our Grade 4 and 5 teachers will have additional instructional minutes that they can use for numeracy and literacy instruction.

The aim of second language programming at the middle school level will be to provide students with essential skills and attitudes that will allow them to utilize the language at higher levels of education and while travelling within Canada or abroad.

If a school has a teacher who is a language specialist, a second language can continue to be offered as part of the diverse exploratory course options at the middle school level. This will allow our language specialists to continue sharing their knowledge and expertise in a meaningful and authentic way with our students. If a school does not have a teacher with knowledge of a second language, programs will not be offered.

Thank you for supporting French as a Second Language programming within our schools. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jodi Smith, Division Principal.

Yours in Christ,



Kathleen Finnigan  
Interim Superintendent of Schools