

EDINA'S FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

It is important to note that this student has been a participant in the Edina Public School's K-12 French Immersion Program. The goals of an immersion program of study are:

"for students to become proficient in the second language and develop increased cultural awareness while reaching a high level of academic achievement. Students develop proficiency in the second language by hearing and using it to learn all of their school subjects. ... In addition to reaping the social and economic advantages of bilingualism, immersion learners benefit cognitively, exhibiting greater nonverbal problem-solving abilities and more flexible thinking (see reviews in Met, 1998)." (Fortune, 2003)

Students Who Remained in the Edina French Immersion Program Through Grade 12:

- completed their entire core course of study in grades K-5 in French while fulfilling all Edina curricular expectations. Grades K-2 were entirely in French with English Language Arts added from grade 3 on.
- continued in middle school in an "extended French immersion" (EF) experience as part of a cohort which completed their core courses of study in the French language. Math, Science, Social Studies, and French Language Arts were among the courses offered in French.
- took advantage of advanced course offerings within the French department at Edina High School, such as Francophone Cultures, French Culture in the Modern World, and Advanced Placement courses.
- studied not just France but other francophone cultures, broadening their cultural awareness and sensitivity.

The Edina French Immersion Program:

- started in 1991 with 100 students enrolled in Kindergarten. Enrollment has remained steady over the years.
- retained 60% of students through grade 9 and 25% through grade 12 of the first graduating class of 2004. For subsequent years, retention through grade 9 has increased to 75%.
- offers international experience through a travel and family stay opportunity in France in high school.
- for additional information, please visit our web site at:
<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/normandale/ourschool/frenchimm.htm>

Fortune, T. & Tedick, D. "What Parents Want to Know About Foreign Language Immersion Programs."

Digest EDO-FL-03-04 August 2003. October 13, 2003 <http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0304fortune.html>

Met, M. (Ed.). (1998). *Critical issues in early second language learning*. New York: Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley.