



Annapolis Valley
Regional School Board

Intensive French in the AVRSB

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Vision
Working Together
for Students



Mission
To create a supportive, student-centred environment where each student succeeds and all educational partners are valued.



Guiding Principles
- Students First
- Focus on Learning
- Positive Environment
- Respect for Diversity
- Collaboration, Partnerships and Cooperation

Where did this program originate?

Joan Netten
Faculty of Education
Memorial University
of Newfoundland (MUN)



Claude Germain
Département de didactique des langues
Université du Québec



What is Intensive French?

- An intense language arts/literacy-based approach to teaching French as a second language that complements the Core French Program at the grade 6 level.
- Students learn French for 3 to 4 consecutive hours per day for **5 months**. (Sept - Jan or Feb - June)
- Students receive 3 to 4 times the number of hours in French instruction.
- They receive 300+ hours/year in French compared to 90 hours/year for Core French students.

Characteristics of the Intensive French Program

- ▶ Intensive French is an *optional* French program designed for students whose first language is not French. Instructional strategies and materials are designed with this in mind.
- ▶ French is the language of instruction for a significant part of the school day.
- ▶ Math is taught all year long in English.
- ▶ Physical Education, Music are also taught in English.



What does the Intensive period of the school year look like?

- ▶ French Language Arts (block of 3-4 hours/day)
 - ▶ Focus on the development of oral communication and literacy skills.
- ▶ Mathematics (Daily - English)
- ▶ Phys. Ed. (English)
- ▶ Music (English)



What does the Non-Intensive period of the school year look like?

- ▶ English Language Arts (60 minutes/day)
- ▶ Mathematics (60 minutes/day)
- ▶ Integrated Learning Block:
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Health
 - Visual Arts
 - Information & Communication Technology
- ▶ Core French (30 minutes/day)
- ▶ Phys. Ed
- ▶ Music



Non-Intensive	Intensive
<p>English Language Arts Integrated Learning Block - Science, Social Studies, Health, Visual Arts, ICT</p>	<p>French Language Arts - Focus on the development of oral communication and literacy skills</p>
<p>Core French</p>	
<p>Mathematics (English)</p>	<p>Mathematics (English)</p>
<p>Phys.Ed. / Music(English)</p>	<p>Phys.Ed. / Music(English)</p>

Key Points about Intensive French

- During the Intensive period, students do not study **content** from science, social studies , Health, Visual Arts in French.
- Students learn the language through themes. Some themes **may** cover some of the topics and outcomes found in the Grade 6 curriculum for science, Health, Social Studies.
- Teachers are trained to compact the curriculum for English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health etc during the Non-Intensive period of the year in order to cover the curricular outcomes.



How do they learn French?

All language learners acquire competency in a language in these stages:

Oral comprehension

Oral production

Reading comprehension

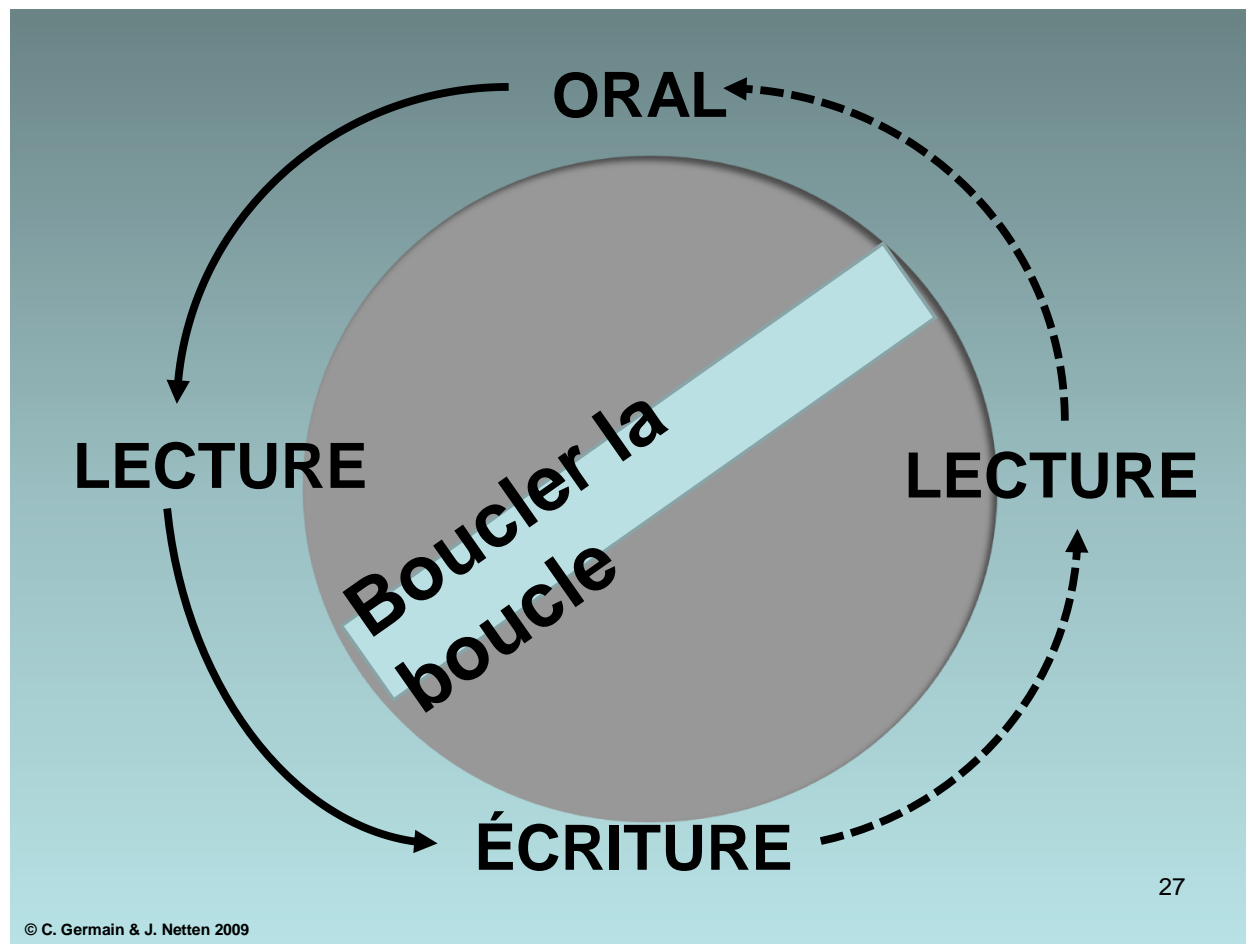
Reading production

Written comprehension

Written production



Boucler la boucle



Parent's/Guardian's Role

- ▶ Intensive Programs are specifically designed for children of parents or guardians who do not speak French.
- ▶ Homework is designed specifically to be student-centered and independent work. Teachers provide various supports in the classroom in order to support the work completed at home by the students.
- ▶ Parents/Guardians must be reassured that what is vital in their involvement is providing a rich and supportive environment.
 - Watch French television with your child.
 - Take advantage of French cultural activities if they exist in your area.
 - Encourage your child to speak French at home (*but do not make it a chore*).
 - Ask your child to talk about the school day in the home language.



Additional Information

Further information can be found at the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development websites:

<http://www.intensivefrench.ca/>

