



**Annapolis Valley**  
Regional School Board

# Intensive French in the AVRSB

Laurie Bolland  
French Consultant, AVRSB  
Laurie.Bolland@avrsb.ca  
902-670-4129



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

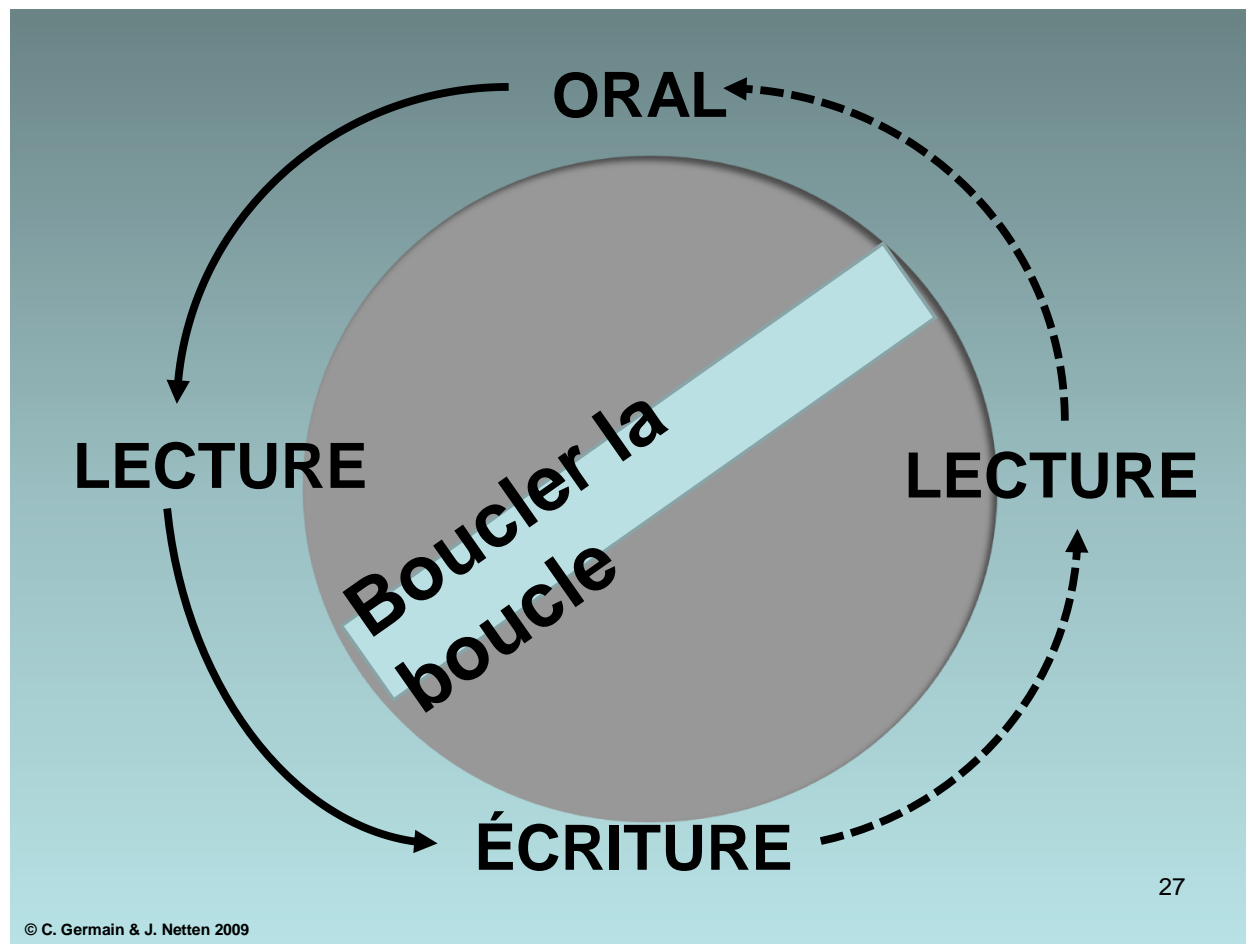
Reading production

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/>

