



International Languages Program

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board offers **International Languages (Elementary and Secondary)** through the Continuing Education Department. The IL Program is mandated under the Ministry of Education. Communities work in partnership with the school board in order to provide high-quality instruction in non-official languages. The JK to Grade 8 program operates out of elementary schools that are staffed by a Site Administrator, Office Assistant and Student Helper (usually former graduates of the program or volunteers wanting to complete their community service hours).

The Community Representative of each language program works together with the Administrator on site in all areas. The Community Representative is selected by the parents' association to represent community views to the school board and is involved with the administration in the hiring, evaluation and supervision of staff and students. Communities provide an essential cultural link to the program, guidance to the curriculum, assistance in the registration and placement of students, advocacy for the program and in some cases additional resources. The OCDSB supervises the International Languages Program by hiring, evaluating, and training instructional staff, developing materials, offering professional development, coordinating conferences and projects and setting evaluation criteria for students. Instructors are school board employees and are therefore expected to perform their duties as professionals.

There is only a small fee for consumables when registering in International Languages as it is an academic program mandated by the Ministry of Education. Diverse families, some with an ancestral heritage, and others with no previous background in the language of study, attend the program on a regular basis.

The focus of the **Elementary Program** is to offer children an opportunity to develop and/or maintain the ability to listen, speak and write a new language or the language of the home or heritage. In so doing the children will benefit by:

- ✓ Enhancing the concept of self and heritage
- ✓ Improving communication with parents/guardians/grandparents/family members

- ✓ Strengthening cognitive development through the knowledge of an additional language
- ✓ Learning and experiencing a new language and culture
- ✓ Building a bridge between the Canadian and heritage cultures.

In addition to various weekend language programs, OCDSB offers different International Languages at 11 elementary schools as **After School Programs**. This is an excellent opportunity for our learners to learn a new language and the culture of that language. Previous exposure to the language is not necessary.

The focus of the **Secondary Program** is to:

- ✓ Provide a valuable basis for courses in International Languages at the high school level (for credit)
- ✓ Give adults and secondary school students the opportunity to learn a new language or to develop and maintain a language other than English or French
- ✓ Prepare students for post-secondary studies in the fields of business, trade and communications
- ✓ Enhance student exchanges
- ✓ Develop students training skills for national and international opportunities.

The OCDSB currently offers thirty four languages at the elementary level and twenty languages at the secondary level. Specialty programs for parents, camps and businesses are also possible upon request.

International Languages Program
Phone: (613) 239-2703; Fax (613) 239-2324
http://www.ocdsb.ca/continweb/international_lang.htm



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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