



WSÁNEĆ School Board Logo
Design by John Elliott

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School District No. 63 (Saanich)
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SENĆOŦEN

(The local First Nations language
of the Saanich People)



and

CORE FRENCH

At Bayside
Middle School

Cover Design by John Elliott

The circle reminds us of our own life cycle. The sun reminds us of the gift of each day's arrival. The fire represents the rekindling of the SENĆOŦEN language in our children who are represented by the Bear. The wolves protect our village people.

SENĆOŦEN LANGUAGE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & FEATURES GRADES 6, 7 & 8

- SENĆOŦEN is the local First Nations language of the Saanich People.
- Offered at Bayside Middle School (Grade 6), beginning in September 1999 as an alternative to the Core French Program.
- Employs SENĆOŦEN Language specialist trained to teach SENĆOŦEN.
- Is a part of the core curriculum for Grade 6, 7 & 8. (Students studying SENĆOŦEN do not need to take Core French at the Middle School.)
- A minimum of 2 x 67 minute classes per week of instruction in SENĆOŦEN.
- Emphasizes the cultural component to increase understanding, awareness, appreciation and participation.
- Follows a locally developed Curriculum for SENĆOŦEN language.
- By Grade 8, a student having gone through the **SENĆOŦEN Language program** from Grade 6 will have received approximately 250 hours of instruction in SENĆOŦEN.
- The SENĆOŦEN language classes are available for students at Stelly's when registration numbers permit.

CORE FRENCH DESCRIPTION & FEATURES GRADES 6, 7 & 8

- Sometimes referred to as FSL or French as a Second Language.
- Offered in all Saanich Schools, to students not registered in French Immersion.
- Employs Core French specialists who generally teach French to a number of classes.
- Is part of the core curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- A minimum of 2 x 67 minute classes per week of instruction in French.
- Includes a cultural component to increase awareness and appreciation.
- Follows a locally adapted and enriched version of the Provincial Core French Curriculum Guide.
- By Grade 8, a student having gone through the Core French program from Grade 6 will have received approximately 250 hours of instruction in Core French.
- Is an elective for Grade 9 to 12 students.

SENĆOFEN LANGUAGE METHOD

- The teaching/learning of a First Nations language has changed in the last few years as a result of new research into the learning of First Nations or additional languages.
- The teaching emphasizes the development of the skills needed to communicate and interact with people.
- Rather than focusing primarily on structure, the SENĆOFEN teacher will try to provide students with many opportunities for “authentic” communication.
- SENĆOFEN will be the classroom language wherever and whenever possible during class time.

SENĆOFEN LANGUAGE CULTURAL GOALS

- The cultural component is an essential part of the program.
- Socio-cultural activities and visits from Elders and resource people play a fundamental role.
- Traditions and values are central to each language lesson.
- The program aims to help students understand, appreciate and participate fully in the SENĆOFEN culture.
- The program theme is *“The best of our past, with our best today, for the best tomorrows”*.

CORE FRENCH METHOD

- The teaching/learning of Core French has changed in the last few years as a result of new research into the learning of an additional or second language.
- The teaching emphasizes the development of the skills needed to communicate and interact with people.
- Rather than focusing primarily on structure, Core French teachers try to provide students with many opportunities for “authentic” communication.
- French is the classroom language wherever and whenever possible during class time.

CORE FRENCH CULTURAL GOALS

- The cultural component seeks to acquaint students with the French culture.
- Students periodically attend socio-cultural activities.
- Students are exposed to the traditions and culture of the French-speaking people.
- The program aims to help students understand and appreciate the French culture.

SENĆOFEN LANGUAGE LINGUISTIC GOALS

- In the first year (Grade 6), a basic goal is to make the learning of SENĆOFEN both enjoyable and successful. In this “foundation year”, listening and speaking are emphasized in order to develop basic verbal fluency. However, the SENĆOFEN alphabet and a variety of useful everyday words and expressions are also introduced in their written form.
- In Grades 7-8, listening and speaking continue to be emphasized, but reading and writing occupy more time. The goal is to develop usable communication skills in SENĆOFEN.
- By Grade 8, students should have a working foundation in the SENĆOFEN Language. They should be able to speak and write about a certain number of everyday topics, using pattern phrases.

CORE FRENCH LINGUISTIC GOALS

- In the first years (Kindergarten to Grade 3), a basic goal is to make the learning of French both enjoyable and successful. Listening and speaking are emphasized at first in order to develop basic verbal fluency.
- In the Intermediate Grades (4-7), listening and speaking continue to be emphasized. Reading and writing are introduced, and the goal is to develop usable communication skills in French.
- By Grade 8, students should have a working knowledge of French. They should be able to speak and write about a wide variety of everyday topics.

PARENTS’ ROLE

- Be involved! It’s the key to your child’s success. Not knowing the language yourself should not be a barrier to involvement.
- Be encouraging and positive about learning the SENĆOFEN language.
- Participate with your child in the various SENĆOFEN language cultural activities organized in the school or in the community.
- Provide opportunities to hear, read and use the SENĆOFEN language.
- Inform yourself about the SENĆOFEN program in which your child is enrolled.