

March 11, 2016,

Dear French Immersion Parent,

As you are likely aware, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division is enhancing French Immersion programming to include French Immersion at Arthur Pechey starting in September 2016. The parent letter that was sent home in January included information about the transition process and the new boundaries and a summary is attached. However, we want to ensure families are aware of the details and **you are receiving this additional information because our records indicate that you live in the new French Immersion catchment area for Arthur Pechey.**

The expanded French Immersion program will provide new learning opportunities for students, families and the community, but it will also mean change and uncertainty for some families as these enhancements occur. The SRPSD Board of Education is committed to addressing concerns by providing excellence in programming and clarity in communication during the establishment of the program.

One of the exciting aspects of establishing French Immersion at Arthur Pechey is the addition of classroom space. Tenders were let, a contractor has been selected and preparation for construction of four brand new classrooms has begun. Classrooms are expected to be ready before the end of July to provide staff the time to prepare the classrooms for students in September. In addition, several teachers from Vickers will be moving to Arthur Pechey to help establish the new French Immersion program, so your children will see familiar faces in their new school. The purchase of additional academic and library resources has already begun so that students and teachers have the resources they need for success.

Another aspect of the transition is confirmation of the transportation and before and after school program. Transportation will be provided to French Immersion students as it was in the past and during the transition period we will continue to provide transportation from a childcare location outside the catchment area as well. **To register for bussing please go to www.srsd119.ca and click on the register for bussing link. Please register by March 25, 2016. This will allow us to build the best possible routes for all our French Immersion students at Arthur Pechey.**

Arthur Pechey also has a robust before and after school program that is available to support students and families. The before and after school program provides supervision and organized activities for students if they need to be at school before or after school hours, but Arthur Pechey has much more to offer than just a great before and after school program. In the coming weeks you will be contacted by Principal Darlene Schultz and she will share some of what Arthur Pechey has to offer for students and families. However, if you have questions please don't feel you need to wait; Mrs. Schultz would welcome your call or email at any time. She can be reached by phone at (306) 922-9229 or by email at dschultz@srsd119.ca

If you anticipate you will be utilizing the “Grandfathering Procedures” as noted in the attachment, please contact Darcy Sander at École Vickers Public School at (306) 922-6446.

Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division has been a leader in education since its inception and this is a new chapter in the development of the division and the community. Our Board of Education is committed to creating another outstanding program. SRPSD believes in our motto of *Excellence for Every Learner*.

More details will be shared as the process unfolds, but if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please free to contact Dr. Darcy Sander at (306) 922-6446 or at dsander@srsd119.ca.

Yours in Education,



Robert Bratvold
Director of Education
Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division

Attachment

Summary of French Immersion Enhancement (from January 2016)

1. New French Immersion Attendance Boundaries

Since the Division is adding a new French Immersion program, a revision to the attendance areas is required.

Vickers: All urban French Immersion students living on the east side of 6th Avenue East will attend École Vickers Public School. All eligible rural French Immersion students living in the East Central Public School attendance area and the Osborne Public School attendance area will attend École Vickers Public School.

Arthur Pechey: All urban and rural French Immersion students living on the west side of 6th Avenue and outside of East Central and Osborne attendance areas will attend Arthur Pechey Public School.

2. Two Year Transition

A transition plan allows students and staff to make adjustments for effective implementation while still establishing a critical number of students and staff in the new school.

2016/2017 school year: Kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 French Immersion students living in the Arthur Pechey French Immersion attendance area will transition to Arthur Pechey Public School.

2017/2018 school year: Grade 5, 6 and 7 French Immersion students living in the Arthur Pechey French Immersion attendance area will also transition to Arthur Pechey Public School so that all Kindergarten to grade 7 French Immersion students living in the Arthur Pechey French Immersion attendance area will attend Arthur Pechey Public School

In the following school years Arthur Pechey will offer a full K-8 French Immersion programming to all French Immersion students in its French Immersion attendance area.

3. Grandfathering Procedures

In an effort to ensure that siblings are able to attend the same school, the division has designed a process that families may request “grandfathering” of students during the transition.

2016/2017: French Immersion students who live in the Arthur Pechey French Immersion attendance area will be required to attend Arthur Pechey in kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 unless they have a sibling above grade 4 attending Vickers. If so, the family will be allowed to remain at Vickers if requested.

2017/2018: French Immersion students who live in the Arthur Pechey French Immersion attendance area will be required to attend Arthur Pechey in Kindergarten to grade 7 unless they have a sibling in grade 8 attending Vickers. If so, the family will be allowed to remain at Vickers if requested. Students in grade 8 will remain at Vickers.

In addition to the above details the implementation process has also included:

- Continued release time for Dr. Darcy Sander to support and monitor the transition,
- Initial plans for preparation and construction of additional classrooms at Arthur Pechey
- Plans for the acquisition of additional student and staff resources.