

January 6, 2015

Dear French Immersion Parents,

During the fall of 2015 the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division consulted with parents, staff and students about ways to enhance the French Immersion programming in Prince Albert. Following that consultation, the Board reviewed the report and decided to add French Immersion programming to Arthur Pechey Public School at the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

This exciting development will provide new learning opportunities for students, families and the community. The robust English K-8 program will continue at Arthur Pechey as it evolves into a dual track school. While there may be uncertainty for some people as these enhancements occur, SRPSD Board of Education is committed to alleviating any concerns by providing excellence in programming and clarity in communication during the establishment of the program.

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.

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.

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.

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) 764-1571 or at dsander@srsd119.ca.

Yours in Education,



Robert Bratvold
Director of Education
Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division