

• DEAR PARENTS:

This Parent Report is designed to share important new developments in English LA – Immersion.

The first is the way the new curriculum for English LA – Immersion has been developed. The curriculum framework is based on outcomes defined in a project called *The Western Canadian Protocol (WCP) for Collaboration in Basic Education, K – 12*.

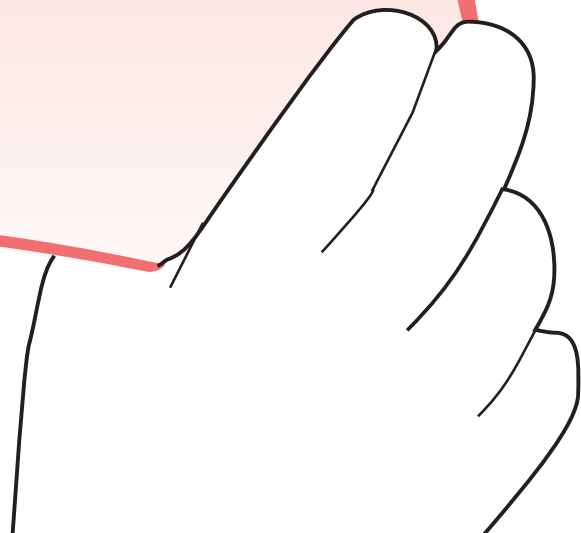
Educators worked together to identify the knowledge, skill, strategies and attitudes students are expected to demonstrate at the end of each grade. The English language arts student learning outcomes are contained in a document called *The Common Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts (K – 12)*. Informally known as the common curriculum framework, this document is the basis for curriculum developed by each of the WCP partners, Manitoba included. Those involved in the project believe that having a common curriculum framework will greatly improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in schools across the West. It will also make it easier for students to move from school to school and province to province or territory.

The Manitoba Curriculum Framework of Outcomes for English LA – Immersion is based on the Common Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts (K – 12). The Grades 1 – 4 English LA – Immersion Curriculum has been adapted to meet the specific needs of the French Immersion Program.

The new frameworks set high expectations for teachers and students of English LA – Immersion. They include more material to be used at greater depth than earlier curricula. Most importantly, they make the development of thinking skills the central focus of all learning experiences.

This Parent Report highlights some features of Manitoba's new English LA – Immersion curriculum frameworks and describes ways parents can help their child learn. By working together, we can help ensure that every child can enjoy and experience success in language learning.

If we work together, we can ensure that every Manitoban is a literate Manitoban.



WHY NEW ELA CURRICULUM?

The new English LA – Immersion curriculum frameworks

- continue to teach the basic skills and strategies to listen, speak, read and write effectively
- include view and represent as language arts
- apply the newest research to improve the teaching of the language arts
- place greater emphasis on information literacy skills to prepare students for the information age
- emphasize the need to learn and work co-operatively in groups
- ensure that Manitoba students have the skills to compete in the global economy

The new Senior Years curriculum frameworks provide students with choices. For their English compulsory core credit, students must choose one of the following at each of Senior 3 and Senior 4:

Senior 3	Senior 4
Senior 3 ELA: Comprehensive Focus (30S)	Senior 4 ELA: Comprehensive Focus (40S)
Senior 3 ELA: Literary Focus (30S)	Senior 4 ELA: Literary Focus (40S)
Senior 3 ELA: Transactional Focus (30S)	Senior 4 ELA: Transactional Focus (40S)

Students may select from this list additional courses at Senior 3 and Senior 4 to fulfill optional course requirements.

For more information, check out the Web site at
<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/>

THE LANGUAGE ARTS ARE

listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing.

We use language arts every day

- to share ideas, information and feelings
- to think about our experiences
- to think, explore and make meaning of our own and others' experiences
- as an art
- to understand and work with others
- to participate in our community – local, provincial, national, world
- to learn about things that interest us

Students who are successful in English LA – Immersion

- understand how images and language communicate ideas, values and beliefs
- acquire and process information and appreciate the ideas and experiences of others
- gather and learn information
- consider the ideas and experiences of others
- use charts, posters, drama, visual art and video presentations, as well as writing, to communicate their ideas
- understand how the media influences people's lives
- communicate ideas clearly
- appreciate a variety of points of view and the importance of building community
- contribute to building a healthy learning community
- make informed decisions
- experience the joy of communicating clearly and well
- are literate in knowledge and skills that go beyond reading and writing
- have more opportunities available to them in a rapidly changing world



BUILDING THE TEAM

FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

To be ready for the 21st century, the information age, students need to

