



## Growing Oral French

### Grades 7–9 French Immersion both Continuing and Late Why Oral French Matters

**Speaking comes first.** Students need to say ideas out loud before they can read and write them well. Strong oral French supports success in **reading, writing, and learning across all subjects.**

*Trying matters more than being perfect.*

### What We Do at Vanier (Our Commitment)

Teachers use research-based practices aligned with the **Neurolinguistic Approach (NLA)** and various other language theories:

- **Daily oral interaction:** partner talk, small groups, and circle discussions
- **Listening before speaking:** rich teacher modeling with visuals and gestures
- **Sentence building:** learning useful sentence patterns students can reuse
- **Safe risk-taking:** meaning first, providing corrective feedback over time
- **Gradual independence:** guided talk → shared talk → independent speaking

### What Students Practice and Accountability

Students are encouraged to:

- Participate—even when unsure
- Speak French with teachers and peers
- Listen actively to French (voices, videos, songs)
- Notice and reuse new words and expressions
- Improve communication over time (not perfection)



## What Do the Speaking Levels Mean?

If the report card came out today, where might your student be?

*Growth over time is the goal.*

### Level 1 – Beginning

- Uses single words or short phrases
- Relies on gestures or visuals
- Participates with support

### Level 2 – Developing

- Shares short messages on familiar topics
- Uses strategies when stuck (gestures, known words)
- Participates respectfully in group talk

### Level 3 – Proficient

- Communicates complete ideas on familiar topics
- Clarifies meaning when needed
- Participates actively and confidently

### Level 4 – Strong & Confident

- Speaks clearly and confidently
- Adapts language to express ideas fully
- Demonstrates strong listening and respectful discussion skills

## How Families Can Support (No French Required!)

You do **not** need to speak French to help.

You can:

- Ask your child to explain learning (English or French or an additional language)
- Encourage effort and risk-taking
- Ask what new words or expressions they heard
- Celebrate progress—not perfection

**The most important message:** *It's okay to make mistakes. Keep trying.*



## Alberta Program of Studies Alignment (French Immersion)

This work supports outcomes related to:

- **Oral Communication:** listening, speaking, interaction
- **Communication Strategies:** using gestures, rephrasing, approximations
- **Language Competence:** clarity, fluency, vocabulary growth
- **Cultural & Social Interaction:** respectful participation and collaboration

## Late Immersion – What’s Different?

### Grades 7–8

Late Immersion students are **learning French for the first time in adolescence**. Instruction is intentionally designed to:

- Build confidence quickly through **high-frequency oral language**
- Focus on **meaningful communication**, not memorization
- Use **visuals, gestures, and sentence frames** to support comprehension
- Normalize mistakes as part of language learning

### What Success Looks Like in Late Immersion

- Students may understand more than they can say at first
- Speaking grows through **daily supported practice**
- Progress is measured by **increased participation and confidence**

### Our Shared Goal

To grow **confident, capable French speakers** through strong instruction at school and encouragement at home.

**School + Students + Families = Success**