



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

