

Kindergarten Programs of Choice Review

French Immersion

Intensive Fine Arts

Montessori

Traditional

Discovery

February 2018

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The Programs and Schools

Early French Immersion

Laronde (Single Track)
Martha Currie (Dual Track)
Peace Arch (Dual Track)
Riverdale (Dual Track)
Simon Cunningham (Dual Track)
Woodward Hill (Dual Track)

Fine Arts

David Brankin (Dual Track)
White Rock Elementary (Dual Track)

Montessori

Latimer (Dual Track)
Mountainview (Single Track)
Sunnyside (Dual Track)

Traditional

Cloverdale (Single Track)
McLeod Road (Single Track)
Surrey (Single Track)

Discovery

Royal Heights (Dual Track)

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Program of Choice:

Early French Immersion

School	Kindergarten Waitlist	Grade 1 Waitlist
Laronde (Single Track)	20	10
Martha Currie (Dual Track)	20	14
Peace Arch (Dual Track)	30	13
Riverdale (Dual Track)	0	0
Simon Cunningham (Dual Track)	0	0
Woodward Hill (Dual Track)	32	21
Totals	102	58

*waitlist numbers include those students who selected each option as their 1st choice.

Emerging Themes:

There continues to be significant waitlists for French Immersion programs, primarily in the South and East areas of the District. Despite these waitlists, the Cougar Creek French Immersion Program is closing at the end of this year due to low enrolment. Parents are requesting placement in a French Immersion Program, but may not be willing to accept a placement if it is in another community from where they live.

The district continues to have a shortage of space in which to host new French Immersion Programs in communities where there is demand. This shortage has been further exacerbated this year by implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement as it pertains to class size and composition. A further challenge is the District continues to have difficulty in recruiting qualified French Immersion teachers.

Program of Choice:

Intensive Fine Arts

School	Kindergarten Waitlist	Grade 1 Waitlist
David Brankin (Dual Track)	9	0
White Rock (Dual Track)	52	33
Totals	61	33

*waitlist numbers include those students who selected each option as their 1st choice.

Emerging Themes:

Over the years, the waitlists for our two Intensive Fine Arts schools has remained constant. David Brankin has historically had a relatively small waitlist while White Rock has consistently had a significant waitlist. Enrolment at White Rock, typical for schools in Surrey, is limited by the physical space.

Both schools face similar challenges in terms of finding specialist Fine Arts teachers.

Program of Choice:

Montessori

School	Kindergarten Waitlist	Grade 1 Waitlist
Latimer (Dual Track)	13	1
Mountainview (Single Track)	16	15
Sunnyside (Dual Track)	12	9
Totals	41	25

*waitlist numbers include those students who selected each option as their 1st choice.

Emerging Themes:

Similar to the French Immersion and Fine Arts schools, our Montessori programs struggle to find Montessori trained teachers. The district does receive some assistance from the Surrey Montessori Society in terms of professional development opportunities, but qualified teachers remain difficult to recruit. What is also increasingly becoming a factor, particularly in the face of the Memorandum of Agreement, is the difficulty to maintain the Montessori goal of multi-year age groupings. This will continue to be a focus of conversation at the Montessori Advisory Committee meetings.

Mountainview Montessori exists in a school that is entirely in portables, except the gymnasium. The original building was lost due to a fire in the late 1990's. Mountainview is currently listed as the second in a list of three priorities for replacement buildings in the Capital Plan, however the District is experiencing significant enrolment growth and also requires capital for new facilities.

Program of Choice:

Traditional

School	Kindergarten Waitlist	Grade 1 Waitlist
Cloverdale (Single Track)	12	0
McLeod Road (Single Track)	52	34
Surrey (Single Track)	0	0
Totals	64	34

*waitlist numbers include those students who selected each option as their 1st choice.

Emerging Themes:

McLeod Road is the one school out of our three Traditional Schools that has a significant waiting list. Expansion at McLeod is limited by the physical space. Neither Cloverdale nor Surrey Traditional have had significant waitlists over the period of the last 5 years.

Program of Choice:

Discovery

School	Kindergarten Waitlist	Grade 1 Waitlist
Royal Heights (Dual Track)	0	0
Totals	0	0

Grades	Neighbourhood Program	Discovery Program
K/1	18	
K/1		18
1/2		21
1/2/3	21	
3/4	23	
3/4		17
4/5/6	26	
5/6/7		18
6/7	23	
Totals	111	74

Emerging Themes:

The Discovery Program has not had a waitlist for the past 3 years. There is only an average of just over 9 students per grade in the program. More importantly, the changes in the provincial curriculum have significantly narrowed the difference in approaches to education between the Discovery Program and the Neighbourhood Program. Currently, both programs are very similar.

The current two track structure at Discovery:

- limits the number of students who can participate in the school
- makes grade groupings difficult
- makes class composition difficult
- makes the creation of a unified culture for students, staff, and families, and the wider school community, a complex undertaking

The staff in the Neighbourhood program and the staff in the Discovery Program are closely aligned in their practice.

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Points for Consideration by the Board:

A significant number of parents in Surrey would like to have access to Programs of Choice for their children. This desire is varied depending on geographical location. For example, there is a strong demand for Early French Immersion in the south and east areas of the District and there is a strong demand for Traditional School in the central area of the District. Parents aren't necessarily willing to access Programs of Choice outside of their communities, as there is a waitlist in some communities while there are still available spaces in other communities.

The District continues to be under significant pressure to provide the necessary classroom space for both its Neighbourhood Programs and Programs of Choice as it complies with the class size and composition language in the Memorandum of Agreement. For the 2017-18 school year, the school district put 50 portable classrooms into operation, and renovated many other spaces within schools, to provide enough classroom space for students. The District anticipates purchasing numerous portables again in 2018-19 to accommodate projected growth.

Programs of Choice are clearly a popular option amongst our parent community, but in the context of the Memorandum of Agreement, the District must ensure it has enough available seats for all students in all programs.

Further points to consider include, when looking at expansion, keeping in mind the Programs of Choice that require less classroom space, for example Late French Immersion, as opposed to the Programs of Choice that require more classroom space. Also, District staff should continue to monitor the consistency and quality of Programs of Choice. The consistency and quality is dependent, in part, upon the District's ability to recruit and support qualified teachers.

In terms of the Discovery Program, the demand for this program is very low. The concept of Discovery was ahead of its time, and with the evolution of the curriculum, teaching practices and approaches have caught up to it. There are very few differences between the Discovery Program and the Neighbourhood Program, and staff at the school are already closely aligned in their practice. A point to consider is exploring, with the Discovery School Community, the impact, challenges and benefits of formally shifting the school focus to one Neighbourhood Program and vision.