



Fisher Park/Summit Alternative School  
250 Holland Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1Y 0Y6  
<http://fisherparkps.ocdsb.ca>

## Welcome to FPSA!

## (Immersion)

Welcome (or welcome back) to FPSA for the 2017-18 year. To those families and students just joining us, we look forward to meeting you and having you with us for the next 2 years. As we prepare things to be ready to roll in September we wanted to keep you informed about how things will be organized for the fall and what you can expect at FPSA.

### Organization for 2017-18

- Reduced overall number of classes at FPSA (20 vs. 23) has meant some reorganization for next year. A smaller population of students will also mean a reduction to a half-time Vice Principal. Ms. Morley will be moving on to join Connaught PS and Mark Wilson will be joining FPSA as our Vice Principal (coming from Glashan PS).
- In order to minimize the number of students in “split” grade classes (combined grade 7 and 8) we will be instead combining French Immersion classes (EFI, MFI). Instruction and student expectations will still be tailored to the level of language appropriate for the student based on their learning needs and will prepare them well for the high school French Immersion track. This model of aligning combined classes by program rather than split grade classes is being used in many OCDSB schools with good results and allows teachers to focus on a specific grade curriculum with the group rather than trying to cover two grade levels at once.
- Based on our current enrollment, in Immersion we anticipate having five Grade 7 classes and five Grade 8 classes, plus one Congregated Gifted-Immersion class.
- Students in Immersion classes will have half their subjects in English, and half in French. Subjects taught in French for next year will be Literacy, Science/Technology, Physical Education/Dance, and Social Studies (History/Geography). Additional instructional time (40 min per week) will be dedicated to building cross curricular numeracy skills. The Arts (Visual Art, Music, Drama), Health, English, and Math will all be taught in English.
- Distribution of subjects will be reviewed annually to ensure Immersion students get a broad experience in both languages during their time at FPSA and a healthy balance between academic, creative, and active subjects in both languages while maintaining student engagement.
- We have sought to seek a balanced approach between “homeroom” teaching model and a more specialist teacher delivery model that is appropriate in a middle school/junior high environment. Most classes will have 5-6 different teachers that facilitate their various subjects.

- In order to meet other Board/Ministry mandated timetable goals, class lengths will be revised next year to move away from 50 min. periods. Each class will be either 40 or 60 min. in length (varies by subject). While this change will present some challenges as we adjust, the model has already been adopted by most other OCDSB schools and will become more natural over time.

**What to expect the first week of September:**

Students will be asked to gather on the basketball courts for 8:45 on the first day (Tuesday Sept 5th). Staff will be organized by program (Immersion, English, Alternative) and will help students join their homeroom. Over the course of the first few days, students will participate in various orientation activities to help them build familiarity with the school, their timetable, teachers, classmates, etc. and will settle into curriculum work by the end of the first week. We strongly encourage parents to review their student's timetable, making note of their teachers and reaching out early to connect with them if there are any challenges. All of our staff's email addresses are listed on the school website (<http://fisherparkps.ocdsb.ca>)

There will be a large package of additional information and forms that will come home with students in the first week (electronic copies will be posted to the web site as well) - your assistance with getting these returned to school in a timely manner is greatly appreciated.

**Key Dates to note:**

Tuesday September 5th - First day of school

Tuesday September 19th - Meet the Teacher Night (6:30 - 8:00 pm)

Wednesday September 20th - School Council Meeting (6:30 pm in the Library) - All are welcome

**Have a safe and happy summer. We looking forward to seeing you in the fall!**