



Q & A from the ÉSOMS 2021 Open House

1. What does the school go up to?

- ÉSOMS is a grades 6-8 middle years school

2. So when can the parent and the student go to visit the school?

- Due to COVID, we cannot have our grade 5 students come in to spend an afternoon in our school.
- There may be an opportunity for ÉSOMS to host an outdoor visit in June - stay tuned
- We are hopeful that Orientation meetings will be held this fall - more information on this event will be out in the near future.

3. What time do grade 6 start and finish?

- Students can come into the school at 7:50 a.m. and leave at 3 p.m.

4. Would my son need to submit an extra form because our address is from out of division catchment, but he goes to Victory School?

- We assume that everyone from Victory School will move forward to ÉSOMS unless families have indicated otherwise.
- There is, however, some paperwork (an Out of Division and School of Choice form) that you will need to fill out - please inquire at your feeder school or call ÉSOMS

5. Does ESOMS still offer English as a medium of instruction or is it French only?

- ÉSOMS is a dual track school offering both the English and the Français Immersion programs. Phys. Ed. and music are both offered in both languages.

6. Are there any opportunities for graphic art/design such as animation or photoshop?

- All of ÉSOMS's students participate in a program called TAS (Technology, Arts, & Sports) where they will have an opportunity to participate in activities ranging from graphics to metals to active living, to name a few. Students are assigned to the activities with their classes except for hockey - students can choose hockey and equipment is provided if needed.
- Some of the TAS activities are off campus. Students are bussed to École Leila North, Garden City Community Centre, and the Aki Centre, as examples.

7. How is lunch facilitated? Are there any fees for our kids to stay for lunch?

- Lunch is with the class in the homeroom. Half an hour is dedicated to eating lunch and the next half hour is dedicated to going for an outdoor break.
- There are no fees to stay at the school for lunch.

8. Is there a bus service? To what grade is the bus service offered?

- If you live within the ÉSOMS catchment area, your children likely qualifies for bus services
- If you do not live with the ÉSOMS catchment area, there is no bus service offered.
- Bus service may be provided for students from École Rivière Rouge and some Belmont students
- Please direct specific transportation questions to your current school or call us at ÉSOMS

- Bus services granted in grade 6 will continue on until grade 8 provided you are still living at an address that qualifies for bussing. There is, however, a fee for bussing in grades 7 and 8 which is currently not there in grade 6.
- All transportation routes, fees and qualifying distances are subject to change

9. When do we need to register by?

- If you are coming in from our feeders schools (École Belmont, École Rivière Rouge, Victory School) you do not need to fill out any registration forms.
- If you are not coming from one of our feeder schools, or you are just moving into the area, or you are filling out a school of choice form, please do so as soon as possible.
- If you are filling out a school of choice form, but still live within division, it does not necessarily mean you will be accepted. The sooner we receive these forms, the sooner we will know our numbers and be able to let you know if we can welcome your child.

10. Can we bring our phones to school?

- Yes you may. Teachers will have classroom rules for cell phone use. It is highly recommended that phones be put away during instruction times so that learning can be optimized. These devices are a “bring at your own risk” item.

11. Do sports teams normally happen after school hours?

- Typically yes. The latest that sports activities would end is at 5:30.

12. Is there a cost associated with band?

- There is currently no cost associated with band.
- The Seven Oaks School division, in supporting arts education, provides all instruments to students at no cost.
- Instruments are handed out in September and handed in mid-June. The instruments undergo maintenance and cleaning over the summer for redistribution in the fall.

13. Is there bus service from the River Grove area or the River Ridge area?

- Yes, currently there is bussing from these areas if you are in our French Immersion program.
- The bus route and bus stops change from year to year depending on how many students are in need of transportation.
- Bussing information is available in Parent Connect closer to the school year.

14. Will we be having desks of our own?

- This depends on which classroom students are assigned to. Some classrooms have individual desks and some have tables or larger desks.

15. How many grade 6 classes are there?

- In September 2021, the projection is 7 grade 6 classes (5 French Immersion classes and 2 English classes).

16. Are you allowing grade 6's to go outside and buy their lunch?

- We do not encourage Grade 6 students to leave the school grounds, unless you are walking home for lunch.

17. Are you a pure French Immersion school or dual?

- ÉSOMS is a dual track school offering both English and French immersion programs.

18. Does ESOMS also offer classes in English? She is in French medium but wants to change to English medium.

- This is a family decision which we assume would be made in consultation with the family, the teacher and administration in your current school.
- Switching to English might, however, change your catchment area school. To check which school is your catchment area school for English, please talk to your current school or call us at ÉSOMS.

19. How long is the break and how many breaks do we get?

- Because of COVID, breaks are taken inside the classroom and are typically 5-10 minutes with one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- Bathroom breaks are as needed

20. What's the first day of school?

- September 7, 2021.

21. What time are students allowed to come into the school in the morning? And how long can they stay after?

- Due to COVID, students can come in at 7:50 a.m. and leave at 3 p.m.
- Under normal circumstances, activities occur after school.

22. In class, can I only talk French or can I talk English and French?

- Students are encouraged to speak French. The more use it, the more confidence you gain and the better you become at speaking French.

23. What does the first week of school look like for grade 6 students?

- There is a lot of Orientation, community and building and getting to know routines.

24. Are lockers available?

- Yes - students are assigned a locker and provided a combination lock.

25. Would we have to bring our own school supplies?

- There is a one time fee of \$40 at the beginning of the year which includes all school supplies.

26. When do they choose whether they want to be in band or extra curricular activities?

- Hopefully our music teachers will be able to visit the feeder schools with some band instruments in tow, and students would then be surveyed about whether they were interested in taking band or Exploratory. If not this will take place at the beginning of the school year.

27. We live in the area but kids attend WSD School. We are not registered yet but will we be prioritized because we are in catchment?

- Please be sure that you are in the ÉSOMS catchment area (please call us if you are not sure); even though you may be geographically close to our school, you may not be in our catchment area.
- If you are in our catchment area, then ÉSOMS would be the school you would attend. The only time that we could not accept students in catchment would be if our classes are already full (we only have 2 grade 6 classes in the English program). If we were caught in this situation, we would discuss which other school close by in our community would best suit your family.

28. Can you go to both English and French Immersion?

- You would attend only one of the English or French Immersion programs at one time.

29. What if you're non-binary and want to play volleyball?

- All students can play with a team they feel is the best fit for them.

30. Are productions performed in English or in French or both?

- So far, all productions have been performed in English so that all students can participate. Maybe in the future there will also be a production in French!

31. Are there separate classes and homerooms?

- ÉSOMS practices the middle years philosophy where all subjects with the exception of Physical Education and Music are taught in the same classroom by the same teacher.

32. Is there a subject for art?

- Art is an integral part of our learning philosophy. Students get to explore art in many classes such as ELA, Social Studies or Math or it can be a class in itself.

33. How will you know which class you're in? Do they get to pick a few friends to be in the same class as them?

- Your teacher's name will appear at the bottom of your June report card.
- Teacher teams from ÉSOMS and our feeder schools will meet and discuss classroom composition. We try to place every student with a friend or two.

34. When can we let you know if our child wants the English or French program?

- Ideally before the end of May, 2021.

35. Are we hearing that there are no extra-curricular activities due to COVID?

- Yes, many of our activities have been cancelled due to COVID.
- In-house activities might start up soon.

36. Do we get daily homework?

- This will depend on your teacher. There is a general sense of embracing doing work within classroom hours.

37. How many after school activities can you do?

- You can fit in as many activities as you are capable of doing. The phys ed and music teams will accommodate your schedules so that you can do both.

38. Is there a pizza day at ESOMS?

- Pre-COVID, we have been known to throw a great pizza day. We hope that we can continue this activity after COVID.

39. Can we anticipate that sport teams will resume for next year? Is that the intention, providing health orders allow?

- We are following public health orders for the safety of our community. Once public health gives us the ok to resume sports activities, we will do so, always following the protocols put in place.

40. Do you have an idea if Seven Oaks will merge into Winnipeg 1 due to amalgamation? I hope not.

- For now, Seven Oaks will operate as usual.

41. What do kids actually do in Exploratory?

- This is a time when teachers and students will explore science or work on projects. (Ex. learning Spanish, gardening, etc). This looks different from year-to-year and from classroom-to-classroom.

42. Is there a dress code?

- No, we do not have a dress code.

43. What is GSA? More info on GSA please.

- GSA historically meant Gay-Straight-Alliance but it now stands for Gender and Sexuality Alliance. It is a group of people who come together in support of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. ESOMS GSA meets once a week when members of the community and allies can come together and talk about how we can support each other and make our school an inclusive environment where everyone feels safe.

44. When does my child find out who their teacher is? Will it be a blended learning due to COVID-19?

- Students will find out their teacher's name on the June report card.
- As things change with COVID restrictions, we cannot predict what the fall will look like.

45. What are the school policies on bullying?

- We do not have a policy *per se*, as we work at every situation to educate students on what a safe and caring school environment needs to look like.

46. How big are the cohorts?

- Our classes are composed of about 22 students. Students can be part of a larger cohort for the outdoor lunch period or if they take the bus (for example).

47. Will we know if our child is accepted into English grade 6 relatively soon after we submit the application or is there a little bit of wait?

- If you are referring to an Out of Catchment or Out of Division application, this may be closer to the end of June.

48. Is there going to be online learning?

- This is dependent on protocols set by Public Health due to COVID. If we need to, teachers are set up with the technology required.

49. When grade 6 is completed, do the students in the same class stay in the group for grade 7? Or are the students shuffled?

- As of now, students are put in new class groupings each year. This could change, but that has been our practice thus far.

50. Are we picking band or TAS?

- Everyone participates in TAS. Your choice would be band or exploratory

51. Are we allowed to bring home books from the library?

- Absolutely!

52. Where will we be able to view a recording of this meeting?

- On our website.