

Connexions Program

Starting in August 2021, the team at Paul-Émile-Mercier Secondary School Community Centre (CSSC Mercier) will begin offering the **Connexions** experiential learning program to Grade 9 students. This one-semester (August to January) pilot program will allow students from CSSC Mercier and French immersion to learn through integrated subject matter. Whether in nature, in the community or in the classroom, this program will teach students how to communicate well and to think critically and creatively, while also developing their personal conscience, their identity and their sense of social responsibility. The **Connexions** program is also an opportunity for students to develop their Franco-Yukoner identity and to improve both their spoken and written French language skills. Below is a brief description of the program and the application form to be completed if you wish to apply.

Students will:

Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have the opportunity to learn through experiential and place-based education; ▪ Develop their leadership skills; ▪ Develop a better understanding of Yukon First Nations; ▪ Develop their ecological awareness and an appreciation for nature, in harmony with the environment surrounding them; ▪ Develop their literacy skills through a variety of texts; ▪ Develop various practical skills involving outdoor activities, food preparation, etc.; and, ▪ Develop responsible attitudes towards their studies, themselves and their role in society.
Is Connexions right for you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You must commit to actively participating in the group and helping out when necessary. ▪ You need to be open-minded and have a positive and collaborative attitude. ▪ You must commit to participating in the various outdoor excursions. ▪ You do not need any specific experience for this program, but you must demonstrate a desire to try new things. ▪ You do not need any outdoor equipment: if you already have it, you can use it; otherwise, the school will lend it to you. ▪ You must supply your own food during camping trips. ▪ Your regular attendance is essential and you must diligently participate in all classes. ▪ You must commit to speaking French 100% of the time, whether in the classroom or on field trips.
How do I register for the Connexions program?	<p>You must submit a typed one-page letter in French which includes the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain your interests and what activities you participate in; • Describe your motivation for participating in the Connexions program; • Indicate how you can work with others in a group setting; • Indicate your commitment to participating in the Connexions program in French; and • Tell us how your participation will be beneficial for the group. <p>You must also complete the bottom portion of this document with your parents. Admission to the program involves an in-person or phone interview.</p>
Registration information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be a maximum of 16 students in the program. ▪ Priority will be given to students at CSFY schools who meet the admissions criteria. ▪ There are a maximum of 8 spots available for French immersion students, depending on the number of CSFY students who register in the program. ▪ We hope to have a balance of genders in our program. ▪ Teachers from your home school will be contacted during the selection process. ▪ A \$250 fee will be charged at the beginning of the program.
Added benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunting education and ethics course ▪ FoodSafe certification ▪ Avalanche safety and prevention course
Courses	<p>Social Studies 9: This course covers the period between the 1750s and 1919. While drawing connections with the 21st century world, students will learn about the new ideas that profoundly influenced societies and events, and about the political, social and economic impacts of the physical environment. Students will also study power imbalances and their effects on individuals and societies.</p>

French 9: This French course focuses on the critical views of authors throughout the ages. In addition to studying contemporary texts, students will study timeless texts that convey important values that look *beyond* the societies in which they were written. Additionally, students will learn how the interaction between Indigenous peoples and Francophone communities in Canada mutually influences their languages and their cultures. Finally, communicating in French provides for participation in the Francophone community.

Physical and Health Education 9: Most physical education activities will be based on outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, skiing, biking, etc. Some traditional activities will be included, such as team sports and individual sports in the gym.

Life Skills 9 (outdoor education, food preparation, etc.): This course emphasizes outdoor skills and projects by participating in day and overnight excursions such as backpacking, canoeing, winter camping and other outdoor activities. Additionally, students will complete their FoodSafe certification and develop skills in the kitchen. Finally, students will develop a variety of practical skills through this program.

In the other semester, students will be registered in the following courses: Mathematics 9, English 9, Science 9, and Option 9.

Proposed activities Students will participate in several 2-to-6-day camping trips. Details will be finalized at a later date, but the following activities will be included: canoeing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, trapping, etc.

Safety The safety and wellbeing of students is always our first priority when taking them into the wilderness. Students who demonstrate inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour which jeopardizes their safety or the safety of others may be sent home at their own expense.

Information for French immersion students (FSL)

- This program is offered in collaboration with the Department of Education.
- FSL students will not transfer schools. These students will be cross-enrolled for the duration of the program based on the model used at the Wood Street Centre.
- FSL students will not go through the CSFY admissions process, and their parents will be required to sign a statement confirming that their child will not be admitted into a CSFY school under this program and that the family will not acquire admission rights.

Interviews will take place between May 3 and May 10. All students will be contacted by May 18, 2021, at the latest.

You must submit your application to the CSSC Mercier Administration Office or by email to cssc.mercier@gov.yk.ca by April 27, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. For more information, please call: 334-5651

Your Name: _____ Your School: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

Full Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Addresses: _____

I have read the information regarding the **Connexions** program and I agree to my child's application.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____