



# Riverside Education Centre

6 Riverside Drive, Milford, NS B0N 1Y0

Telephone 902-758-4660 Fax 902-758-4666

Website [www.reconline.ccrce.ca](http://www.reconline.ccrce.ca)

June 2, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students coming into Grades 7 & 8,

We are very happy to share that Riverside Education Centre will be offering a new program choice for students in grade 6, 7, and 8 starting in the 2022-2023 school year. We will be offering Mi'kmaq Language! We are pleased and excited for the new learning opportunities that will be available for students. In the Public School Program, students, upon entering grade 4 and continuing until grade 9, are required to take a language course. In the past we have only had French as the language offering. Starting in September, students in grade 6, 7, and 8 will have choice of French or Mi'kmaq Language.

The course will run the full year and once students opt into the course they will remain in it for the entire year. We need a minimum number of 20 students enrolled in order to offer the course. It is hoped that once students enter the Mi'kmaq Language program they would continue with this program through to the end of grade 9.

Ms. Kim Martin will be joining the Riverside staff to teach one class of Mi'kmaq Language in each grade level. Ms. Martin is an Indigenous teacher currently teaching the language program in Truro. Ms. Martin is also joining the Shubenacadie District School staff as the vice principal and the Mi'kmaq Language teacher for grades 4 & 5.

As we are only able to offer one Mi'kmaq language class per grade level, the French and Mi'kmaq classes have to be offered at the same time (meaning students have to choose their program). There are seven or eight homeroom sections in each grade level. Due to scheduling constraints, students choosing the Mi'kmaq Language program will need to be assigned into two or three homeroom sections in each grade level so they can be pulled together for one Mi'kmaq Language class per grade.

This is the same approach we have for students in Integrated French or French Immersion, where course selection and scheduling require students to be registered together in certain homeroom sections. In grades 7 and 8 the class capacity is 28, meaning up to 28 students can be registered. Once the class is full, students and parent/guardians will be notified of their enrollment in the Mi'kmaq Language course. Students who do not take Mi'kmaq will automatically be enrolled in Core French.

We ask that you complete the form and return it to the school, indicating if you wish your child to be registered for French or Mi'kmaq Language.

If you have questions, please contact the school at 902-758-4660.

Wela'lin,

Robin Isenor  
Principal



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### Please complete and return by Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

This is a fully approved language course by the Department of Education and is open to all students to apply.  
**Some possible questions you may have about these choices:**

1. What is Mi'kmaq language? *Mi'kmaq is a language spoken by First Nations peoples. It is an ancient language spoken over thousands of years ago in our local area. Mi'kmaq is still spoken in First Nations communities today.*
2. How are Mi'kmaq and French taught? *Both Mi'kmaq and French are taught by a licensed teacher who has skills and methods in teaching a second language. The program follows the Nova Scotia Public Schools Mi'kmaq and French curriculum guides. There is a focus on spoken language development.*
3. If I take Mi'kmaq, do I also take French? *No. Students may take only one second language course.*
4. Is Mi'kmaq for First Nations students only? *No, Mi'kmaq Language is open to all students.*

**Please check  below and sign to indicate if you wish your child to partake in Mi'kmaq or Core French. Please return to your child's teacher by **FRIDAY, JUNE 10.****

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish my child to take Mi'kmaq Language.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish my child to take Core French Language.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade next year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_