

Purpose: The purpose of studying French is to be able to communicate with, understand, and respect other people and their cultures.

Beliefs

We believe that anyone can learn a foreign language. We believe that speaking more than one language is a skill that makes us more capable and respectful global citizens in today's world.

Essential Questions

- What is language?
- Would you know about the world if you had no language or means of communicating with other people?
- Why is knowledge of languages other than English essential?
- What does it mean to be bilingual or multilingual?
- How important is it to learn a foreign language?
- How can I learn about communities and cultures through foreign language?
- Nowadays is learning a foreign language a luxury or a necessity?
- Does language influence culture or vice versa?
- Do you lose your culture if you are forced to learn another language?
- Does learning another language help me learn about myself and my culture better?
- Why does the I.B require me to take a language B?
- What connection does culture have with language?

Course Goals and Objectives

The student will be able to understand and use familiar and daily expressions as well as simple sentences which will permit him to satisfy concrete needs. The student will be able to introduce himself or another person and be able to answer or ask questions about things which directly concern the conversational partner. He will be able to communicate in an elementary level if his counterpart in the conversation is cooperative and speaks slowly and distinctly. Student will be able to answer simple questions about himself or another, residence, age, his possessions or answer questions about them. In addition, he will be able to greet, use everyday forms of politeness and address, as well as idiomatic speech, describe pets and familiar objects; express his likes and dislikes. The student will be able to run a simple errand, make a purchase, while using correct speech and gestures; tell day and date, weather, etc.; fill out simple forms; write simple post cards, letters, emails, ads, brochures, etc.

Teaching Strategies and Resources

A. Strategies

1. The language of instruction and communication in the classroom will be French. This method is called the “Direct Method”. Immersion affords students the best opportunity to develop new verbal and mental habits for communicating effectively and spontaneously in French. Grammar explanations will be conducted in English when necessary.
2. The student will be able to understand and use daily and familiar expressions as well as common idioms which aim to satisfy specific needs.
3. Besides receiving direct instruction illustrating vocabulary and grammar concepts, the students will learn by actively engaging each other and the teacher in guided conversations, reading and writing tasks that require personalized input.

B. Resources

1. *Belleville 1*, CLE International
2. *150 activités Internet*, CLE International
3. Authentic documents will be used to complement the text and serve as an indispensable source of expressions and vocabulary enrichment.
4. With the Internet as an open source for everyone, both teachers and students will be involved in the selection of songs, television programs, etc. for use in class.
5. International Baccalaureate *MYP* course guide (Middle Years Program). The teacher will use this mainly as a “background” source for long term planning.
6. www.conjuguemos.com online practice activities.

Assessment – all students may expect the following:

- A. Formative assessments (e.g. several quizzes, homework, small projects – oral or written presentations)
- B. Unit assessments: 3 or 4 chapter tests and a comprehensive unit test each quarter; all will include a speaking and writing component
 1. All unit assessments are cumulative.
 2. IB Assessment criteria will be used for oral exams and short essays. IB marks will be correlated to percentage grades.
 3. The same semester exams are given to all students.
- C. Grading – French is a living language and therefore oral and written components are equally stressed. Quarter grades will be divided 50% oral and 50% written. each quarter grade will reflect the following:

50% Tests (oral and written)

25% Quizzes and pop quizzes (oral and written)

25% Homework/Class participation (oral and written)

Writing assignments, papers, projects and presentations can fall under any of the above categories depending on the demand of the task. Students will be notified of the value of these tasks when they are assigned.

Classroom Policies

- All electronic devices must be turned off or they will be confiscated.
- Laptops may be used **only** with teacher permission.
- No gum chewing.
- No eating in class. Only drinks with as lid are permitted in class.
- Keep backpacks out of the aisles. If you can leave your backpack in your locker, please do so.

Absence, Tardiness and Extra Help

- A. **Absence:** You are responsible for getting any notes from the day(s) you were absent. You will be given the necessary time to complete any homework that was assigned while you were absent. Please see me to know what you missed. If you are absent the day before a test, but knew when the test was going to take place, you are responsible for taking it. If you are absent on the day of a test, the test will be taken the day you return. **It is your responsibility to find me** and arrange to take the test.
- B. **Tardiness:** Be on time for class. There are numerous interruptions throughout the year and we have a lot of material to learn. We need to take advantage of every minute for learning. Arriving on time for class will help you and your classmates to do so. Thanks!
- C. **Extra help:** you may come see me to review what we've learned, go over assignments you missed or just spend a little extra time practicing oral communication.
I am available period(s) _____ and on _____ from 3:15 to 4:15 pm.
If you are coming for extra help, you need to arrive on time.

Materials

- Pen or pencil
- 3 ring binder with divider for notes and handouts
- Textbook(s) and workbook
- Any other assignment we are currently working on
- Agenda book

Learning for Life

- a. To learn a new language means to acquire new habits of mind this requires repetition in order to master the vocabulary and structures. The teacher will assume that the student will spend at least 30 everyday practice

French. In addition to written homework, students should spend at least 10 minutes every night studying the vocabulary and grammar we are currently working on, as well as reviewing previously learned material.

- b. We are an IB World School and plan for the success of all students. We will expose students to the civilizations of some of the 50 French-speaking countries of the world as well as that of France. More importantly, a new language means a bigger, richer, more exciting world for the rest of one's life. That is the real goal!



Parler français, c'est simple comme bonjour!