

Syllabus Title:

French
Grades Kindergarten – 5th grade

Teacher Information:

Janet Devaux
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Course description:

The French program at Sacred Heart provides an overview of the French language and its global usage in a fun, informative and age-appropriate manner. Each grade has a half-year of French (18 weeks) from Kindergarten through 5th grade, either in the fall or the spring. Each grade will review the material mastered in the previous grade and build on that knowledge with new material.

Content

Kindergarten students will learn:

- About the teacher and her French family; the word “Madame”
- Where French is spoken
- Who of their classmates may have a French heritage
- That they are already familiar with many French facts, stories and characters
- Basic greetings:
 - “Hello”
 - “Good-bye”
 - “How are you?”
 - “I’m fine, thank you.”
 - My name is...
 - What is your name?
- To sing a “hello” song
- To sing a “good-bye” song
- How the French flag looks; the French names for its colors
- How the French National Anthem sounds
- The symbolic bird of France
- 10 color words
- Numbers 0 – 5
- To sing a counting song (1-5)
- Classroom commands (listen, look, stand up, sit down...)
- Vocabulary about toys
- A nursery lullaby

1st grade will learn:

- the Kindergarten curriculum (see above)
- 11 color words
- Numbers 0 – 10
- To sing a counting song (1-10)
- Classroom commands
- Vocabulary about animals; some animal sounds
- A French poem
- A French song
- Several phrases: great job, that's right, I know, peek-a-boo... (from a story book)
- A French playground game

2nd grade students will learn:

- the 1st grade curriculum (see above)
- Other possible responses to "How are you?"
- To shake hands and use the "bise" to greet each other
- Numbers 0 – 12
- To sing a French counting song (1-12)
- About mushroom-gathering in France
- A "mushroom" song
- Vocabulary for items in a table setting
- A song to sing as a prayer before a meal
- The alphabet

3rd grade students will learn:

- the 2nd grade curriculum (review)
- Responsibility for homework assignments
- Vocabulary for parts of the body
- To use the above vocabulary in several games
- Three songs about the body
- Clothing vocabulary
- Weather expressions

4th grade students will learn:

- the 3rd grade curriculum (review)
- The words "Madame", "Monsieur", "Mademoiselle"
- Basic vocabulary used in greetings (extended study)
- Expressions of courtesy
- How to greet people in specific situations
- Numbers 0 – 29
- An alphabet song
- Conversational phrases
- A song about thankfulness
- About French "feast days"

- The months of the year (+ song)
- The days of the week (+ 2 songs)
- How to write the date
- How to address an envelope in France

5th grade students will learn:

- the 4th grade curriculum (review)
- Numbers 0 – 39
- A French song
- French adjectives to describe myself
- “I am”; “You are” (the beginnings of verb conjugation)
- Beginning reading techniques
- French foods
- Vocabulary for the restaurant setting
- Geography of France and Europe
- French-speaking countries

General Course Objectives:

The French program in the elementary grades strives toward several goals: cultural awareness, vocabulary acquisition, introductory pronunciation training, and listening comprehension. The over-arching purpose is to put the child at ease with language-learning, encourage their efforts, and hopefully instill within them a desire and confidence to continue with languages in the future. By “making friends” with the language they will be motivated to further their knowledge of the language and the culture.

Course Materials:

In grades Kindergarten through 3, materials are almost exclusively teacher-generated (worksheets, cassettes, storybooks, props, realia, etc.).

Grades 4 and 5 also use portions of the following texts:

- ▶ Exploring French, 2nd Edition Revised, EMC/Paradigm Publishing.
- ▶ Exploring French, Activity Book, EMC/Paradigm Publishing.

Instructional Strategies include:

- question/response (oral)
- written exercises (3rd-5th grade only)
- recitation
- singing
- role-playing
- board work (beginning in 3rd grade)

- class discussion
- group instruction
- paired activities
- oral practice
- games
- conversational prompts
- audiovisual aids

Assessment is based on student performance in the following areas:

- Class participation
- Homework (beginning in 3rd grade)

From Kindergarten through 3rd grade, grading is as follows:

I – Improvement Needed
 S – Satisfactory
 G – Good
 VG – Very Good

In 4th and 5th grade the students will receive letter grades of A, B, C... These will be assessed on the following scale:

75% - Classroom participation
 25% - Homework

Student Expectations: My French students always amaze me in that they are enthusiastic and quick learners. Their youth helps them to easily master the pronunciation of the language, and this early acquisition is their best asset as they continue on in the upper grades. Therefore I do expect:

- ▶ General self-control
- ▶ Cooperation
- ▶ Participation to best of their ability
- ▶ Completion of homework assignments
- ▶ An enthusiastic smile!

Syllabus Title:

French
Middle School Grades 6th – 8th

Teacher Information:

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Course description:

One Chinese proverb states “Learn another language, gain another soul.” We believe that exploring French and its cultural context is a means by which Sacred Heart students are helped to develop a broader world view and a deeper understanding of themselves. The students will study French, then, in order to gain an insight into French-speaking cultures and become more aware that the American way is only one way to perceive things, to express ideas, and to act. Finally, the students will become equipped to converse with speakers of the target language.

Course content:

6th grade French students will learn:

- to introduce themselves
- to recognize cognates and “faux amis”
- to identify and use accents, liaison, élisio
- to determine the gender of nouns
- to determine the proper use of definite articles
- to pronounce and use proper intonation
- to recognize and interpret some French cultural behaviors
- to identify classroom objects
- to determine to proper use of indefinite articles
- to ask what or where something is; to respond to such questions
- to give and respond to commands
- some differences between French and American education
- how to count from 0 to 60 and to spell those numbers
- mathematical terms
- how to read and answer questions about their reading in complete sentences
- phraseology when using the telephone
- cultural assumptions about the use of the telephone
- to ask for and give information about themselves (name, age, grade-level, personality)
- to ask for and give the time in French (conventional and official time)
- to describe at what time of day they do certain things
- vocabulary about professions
- subject pronouns and the nouns they replace
- grammatical terms about verbs: stem, endings, infinitive, conjugation, present tense, English equivalents

- the present indicative conjugation of the verb “être”
- about job opportunities for youth in French-speaking countries

7th grade French students will learn:

- to express possession by using possessive articles and by using a “de” construction
- vocabulary about family relationships
- to describe their families (name, age, personality, relationship to speaker, profession)
- about French family life
- to conjugate regular -ER verbs in the present tense and implement them in written assignments
- about French cartoon characters
- about French leisure activities and vacation opportunities
- to ask and respond to questions requiring a yes or no response
- to negate a sentence
- vocabulary for rooms in a home
- agreement of adjectives
- to describe their homes
- about the French home
- vocabulary for clothing
- to conjugate “mettre” in the present tense
- the placement of adjectives before or after the noun they modify
- to describe their preferences in clothing
- to identify parts of speech in written material (adjectives, nouns, pronouns, articles)

8th grade French students will learn:

- vocabulary about the body
- to conjugate “avoir” in the present tense
- to use avoir expressions (avoir mal à, avoir froid, etc.)
- to describe themselves (personality, physical features, likes and dislikes, leisure activities)
- basic information about the French health system
- vocabulary for animals
- idiomatic expressions referencing animals
- to use inversion when asking questions
- to use a dictionary
- to hear the language and transcribe (from classroom dictation, stories, songs)
- how to ask questions requiring information (what, where, why, etc.)
- French cultural assumptions about asking for favors/being asked for favors
- the present tense conjugation of “vouloir”
- the days of the week
- the seasons
- the months of the year
- to give the calendar date

- how to describe when certain events occur; when they do certain things
- how to explain their preferences for certain things (using “because”)
- the present tense conjugation of “préférer”
- about certain French holidays and festivals
- how to describe the weather
- the present tense conjugation of “faire”
- to use faire expressions (faire un grimace, faire du ski, etc.)
- the present tense conjugation of “aller”
- the “futur proche” tense
- contractions with “à”
- vocabulary about sites in a town/city
- to count to 1000 and to spell those numbers
- vocabulary about food and meals
- the present tense conjugation of regular -IR verbs
- how to describe what they eat and their food preferences
- the French diet and cultural assumptions about food and eating
- to use partitive articles
- contractions with “de”
- names of French specialty shops
- about Paris and its tourist sites
- the present tense conjugation of regular -RE verbs
- the use of negative expressions (no longer, never, no one, etc.)
- to write in sentences and paragraphs
- to read aloud competently
- to recite (dialogues, poetry, etc.)
- to research a francophone country

General course objectives:

The students at Sacred Heart School work through a level-one French course during a three-year period, from 6th through 8th grade. Upon completion of the middle school language program, the French student will qualify for a high school French 1 or French 2 program, and may possibly enter an “honors” program at either level. On a daily level, the goal in my classroom is to provide a safe and caring atmosphere in which each student feels encouraged to practice and improve their spoken and written French.

Course Materials:

French Is Fun, Book A, Second Edition, Amsco School Publications, Inc., 1997
French Is Fun, Book A, Cahier d'Exercices (workbook), Second Edition, Amsco School Publications, Inc., 1997
Student-purchased French/English, English/French dictionaries (8th grade only)
Other teacher-generated materials (cassettes, CDs, videos, DVDs, etc.)

Instructional Strategies:

- question/response (written, oral)
- written exercises
- dictation
- recitation
- singing
- board work
- class discussion
- one-on-one instruction as needed
- projects
- translation (French-English/English-French)
- group instruction
- oral practice
- website assignments
- games
- conversational prompts
- reading aloud
- audiovisual aids

Assessment is based on student performance in the following areas:

- quizzes (written and oral)
- tests (written and oral)
- recitation
- dictation
- written assignments (dialogs, paragraphs, essays)
- homework
- classroom participation
- reading fluency
- research projects (written result and oral presentation)

Student expectations: We begin the year with my “Three R’s”: Respect, Responsibility and Relationship, and we discuss how these three elements intertwine to create a great classroom environment. Consequently, students are expected to come ready to listen and participate in class each day. We meet

twice weekly and need to make each moment count. As each student gives his/her best effort, the rest of the class will be encouraged to do the same.