

Français II 2019-2020 Syllabus
Thomas Jefferson Middle School



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Arlington Public Schools World Languages Mission: To develop functional oral and written communication skills in the target language and an understanding of other cultural perspectives and practices.

Course Summary:

In this course, students will utilize the language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing to become confident and capable speakers of French. Level 2 students will function at the Novice Mid/High of proficiency by the end of the year, as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Students continue to develop their skills listening, speaking, reading and writing with an emphasis on oral communication. They participate in simple conversations about familiar topics using the vocabulary and grammatical patterns they learn. They read familiar material and write short, guided compositions on topics within their vocabulary and grammatical control. They expand their knowledge of the customs and culture of the French speaking countries to include social patterns, activities, and roles

Teaching Method

At TJMS we teach French using a method called TPRS, which stands for Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling.

Most likely, if you took a second language in school, you were in a traditional language class in high school: you memorized vocabulary lists and dialogues, filled in grammar worksheets and practiced your verb conjugations. Most parents say, "I took high school French/ Spanish/ German/ etc. and I don't remember any of it." That's because humans don't learn language by memorizing vocabulary lists and filling out grammar worksheets! Your own children acquired their first language because they received "abundant, comprehensible input" (according to Dr. Stephen Krashen, a well known language acquisition researcher). Essentially, you spoke to them, read to them, and sang to them in their first language, and that is how they learned to speak.

The method TPRS mimics the way your children learned their first language. Our job is to load students full of abundant, personalized, comprehensible input, or in other words, French that they can understand. This looks vastly different than a traditional French classroom. In our classes, we create stories, sing songs, discuss culture and current events, talk about their lives and play games, all as vehicles to deliver comprehensible input.

Texts and Supplemental Materials:

Textbook and Workbook: T'es Branché EMC Publishing

Novels: "Le vol des oiseaux," "Nuits mystérieuses à Lyons" "Brandon Brown" series; TPRS Storytelling Publishing; *France24.com, Quizlet.com, Padlet.com, Quia.com* and, various Francophone websites

Essential Questions and Timeline

Review of Level I - Who am I?	September
Unit 6: How is shopping different in different countries?	October
Unit 7: What makes a house a home?	November
Unit 8: How do major world cities tell their stories?	December-January
Unit 9: How do people stay healthy and maintain a healthy environment?	February-March
Unit 10: How do travel experiences shape our worldview?	April - May

This course is aligned with the Arlington Public Schools World Languages Curriculum Framework. The corresponding level expectations and framework can be found at <https://www.apsva.us/world-languages/secondary-level/secondary-curricular-documents/>

Required Materials for Class:

· A French section in student's binder dedicated to hand-outs and work, lined, loose-leaf paper and writing utensils. A spiral notebook to use as a journal in class. Earbuds with a microphone to record speech on student iPad.

Class Expectations

- Students will arrive to class on-time and with all necessary materials
- Teacher will prepare level-appropriate materials based on national, county, and International Baccalaureate Middle Years (MYP) standards
- Students and teacher will respect each other and strive for a positive learning environment

Academic Expectations

- Classwork / Interpersonal Communication will be assessed weekly. Students will be evaluated on their ability to attend to, comprehend, and to participate in classroom discussions.
- Homework / practice activities will be assigned as reinforcement for classwork.. Homework may be oral or written practice activities, listening or viewing authentic media, or reading. Assignments will be posted on the classroom whiteboard, Canvas.
- Quizzes will be given as checks for understanding comprehension
- IB Assessments will be given at the conclusion of units and will include Listening Comprehension, Reading Comprehension, Speaking and Writing.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to adhere to the TJMS Academic Honesty Policy. See the TJMS Student Handbook for more information

Assessments:

Student progress with language communication skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) will be monitored and assessed through formative and summative assessments. Students will be formally assessed through end-of-unit reading, speaking, and writing exams. All students will also participate in the following countywide assessments: PATS (Performance Assessment Tasks-Speaking) within second and fourth quarters; a mid-term test in January; a written composition in May; and a final exam in June.

APS Grading Scale

Letter Grade	IB Criterion A, B, C, D	Percentage	Quality Points
A	7-8	90-100	4.0
B+	6	88	3.5
B	5	83	3.0
C+	4	78	2.5
C	3	73	2.0
D+	2	68	1.5
D	1	63	1
E	0	50	.5

- Student grades reflect student achievement and not student behavior. Quarterly grades will round up when the percentage is .5 or higher.
- In addition to achievement, work habits as noted in the report card comments will be evaluated for each course using the following symbols:
 - + Surpasses Expectations
 - # Meets Expectations
 - ^ Approaching Expectations
 - N Needs Improvement
- The final grade is required to be calculated using the quality points and not percentages, letter grades, number or point systems.
- The World Languages Department does round up individual quarters, mid-term exams, final exam grades and end-of-course grades. Any quarter grade ending in .5 will be rounded up.
- Final grades for the year will be calculated based on the quality points listed above. For the final grade calculation, each quarter grade will count for 25% of the final grade. A final grade of 1.0 will be required in order to pass the class.

Quarterly Grades Calculation

Formative assessments for “practice” 30% of quarterly grade	Summative assessments to show mastery 70% of quarterly grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homework (5%) ● Quizzes (10%) ● Interpersonal Communication in Classroom (15%) 	<p><u>IB Performance Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crit. A Comprehending Spoken and Visual Text ● Crit. B Comprehending Written and Visual Text ● Crit. C Communicating in Response to Spoken and / or Written and / or Visual Text ● Crit. D Using Language in Spoken and / or Written Form

Late work policy - late homework will be accepted for partial credit. Missing IB Assessments must be made up during the quarter at student and teacher convenience.

Help

I welcome and encourage students to come for help before school, during lunch hours or after school.

Tips for Success

Learning a second language requires daily effort and fearlessness! Students are expected to participate in classroom activities – speaking in front of the class and making mistakes are essential elements of learning. Beginning second-language-learners are in the “toddler” stage of language acquisition and will continue to grow!

Please sign below to acknowledge that you read and understood the course syllabus.

Guardian's Name: _____

Guardian's Signature: _____