

Introduction to French 6th grade A/B Schedule
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:

Welcome! In this course, students will utilize the language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to eventually become confident and capable speakers of French. The expectation is beginning students will function at the Novice Low/Mid by the end of the year, as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. A typical (*Novice-Mid*) speaker can “communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned” (<http://www.actfl.org>).

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.

Students will learn

- Greetings, numbers, how to describe themselves and others
- To comprehend simple oral and written stories
- To participate in dialogs with learned vocabulary
- Some geography and history of France and the Francophonie

Texts and Supplemental Materials: EMC Exploring French, “Brandon Brown Veut un Chien” TPRS Publishing, online resources: Textivate, Duolingo, TV5Monde, France24

Required Materials for Class: Pencil.

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.
- 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.

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.

Academic Honesty:

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

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 as 25%.

.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"> • Quizzes (15%) • Interpersonal Communication in Classroom (15%) 	<u>IB Performance Assessments</u> <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 - 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: _____

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