

Grade 7 French

Mme. Hambly

Program Objectives

Each class is designed to cover all three strands—oral communication, reading and writing. Students will be strongly encouraged to speak French in general conversation, will read French material, and will do some writing in French.

We do not have a French textbook that we use steadily throughout the year. Instead, the course material includes various stories, passages, lyrics and poems I've collected or created on my own. The new French curriculum is not quite ready, we've been told, but I have planned this year in anticipation of using it since we certainly know the direction it's taking. The emphasis is on authentic oral communication in real-life situations.

Since students will be acquiring many loose sheets of texts and exercises, they will need to organize their French notes carefully. Students have been encouraged to have a French dictionary of their own. I have recommended any medium-sized French/English dictionary (Collins, Oxford) that should cost no more than 15 dollars. If buying a dictionary poses a problem, students can ask me to purchase one for them (at a discount book store) for 7 dollars, or simply choose to rely on the limited amount of class dictionaries.

In the first term, we have a project on the Eiffel Tower. In the second, the project will probably be on food in French culture.

Evaluation

Oral Communication: regular participation, dialogues, unrehearsed tâches finales (final tasks), oral presentations of projects

Reading: reading aloud in class, occasional comprehension tests

Writing: various small individual or group assignments, drafts and final versions of each unit's written tâche finale

Parents often ask me how they can encourage their child in French. I recommend that they encourage their child to participate daily in class, explain and practise new vocabulary at home (even if the parent listening is not familiar with French), and review notes regularly. Students could also develop the habit of reading product labels and instructions in French. While listening to Radio-Canada is, generally speaking, the most beneficial way to supplement in-class learning, this method is actually only really effective for older students.