

le français 1-2

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Bienvenue! The goal of this year-long course is to enable students to communicate in French through written, oral, and listening skills. Students will be able to write paragraphs, sustain short conversations, and understand basic spoken French. Students will be introduced to the varied cultures of the French-speaking world, but in the first year course there is a focus on the culture and geography of France itself. ***A significant portion of each class will be conducted in French and spoken participation in French will be required.*** Specific grammar topics include:

- ✓ conjugation of regular -er, -ir, and -re verbs
- ✓ conjugation of common irregular verbs: faire, être, avoir, aller
- ✓ mastery of the futur proche
- ✓ introduction of passé composé
- ✓ understanding and correct usage of simple negation and interrogative expressions
- ✓ understanding and correct application of the concept of gender of nouns
- ✓ correct usage of adjectives, including placement and agreement
- ✓ successful manipulation of numbers, months, days, dates, time
- ✓ mastery of possessive adjectives
- ✓ familiarity with and understanding of "tu" and "vous"

In addition to such cultural and syntactic goals, each language course at Saint Mary's strives to help students find answers to more fundamental or "essential" questions which are at the heart of learning language. The essential questions for French 1-2 are:



- ❖ How do the language systems in French differ from those in English (for example, verb conjugation, gender, and word order)?
- ❖ Where in the world is French spoken?
- ❖ How do we positively relate to people no matter what their native language or culture?
- ❖ How do we use cognates and visual cues to understand unfamiliar words?
- ❖ How is meaning produced if not by word for word translation?
- ❖ Using basic, non-abstract vocabulary and grammar, how do we express familiar concepts and respond to others?

Required Texts:

Discovering French Bleu Textbook
Discovering French Bleu Workbook

Recommended Materials:

A section of a binder to keep handouts and notes
Ample looseleaf paper
Colored pens to use for self and peer correction

Evaluation:

Quizzes and Tests	35%
Homework and Classwork	15%
Class Participation	15%
Projects, Oral Presentations and Compositions	15%
Final Exam	15%

All points in a given category will be totaled to find the average for that category. The averages will then be weighted to determine the final semester grade.

Grading Scale:

A+ 98+	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F is
A 93-97	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	below
A 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	60%

Quizzes and Tests: You should expect a quiz at the completion of each chapter in the text (about once a week). Occasionally, you may have a more comprehensive test in order to evaluate your cumulative knowledge. These assessments will include a mixture of written and oral questions and will evaluate your ability to both understand and produce discourse in French. You should not expect questions for which you will translate French to English or respond in English; such questions will be rare if they occur at all. A precise knowledge of French spelling (including accent marks) is thus essential to your success in this category.

Important hint: When you study, always study English to French (for example, “How do I say ‘candy’ in French?”) and not French to English (for example, “What does ‘bon bon’ mean in English?”).

Homework and Classwork: This category includes a wide variety of written practice in French, included but not limited to: exercises from your textbook and workbook, short dialogues, responses to film segments, email and internet-based assignments, and in-class group work. Oral assignments will include informal small group presentations in class, impromptu dialogues and messages left on my voice mail for homework.

Très cool: For each quiz on which you earn an A or A-, you will receive one homework pass. You are responsible for keeping track of them, filling them out completely and turning them in on the day of the assignment for which you wish to be excused.

Class Participation: Good class participation entails listening attentively, volunteering responses in class, coming prepared with all necessary materials, respecting your classmates and your teacher, and following all rules for good student conduct as set forth in the student handbook. Moreover, truly learning French will require frequent spoken practice. To that end, you should participate orally in class whenever possible. I expect you to volunteer several times per class period and to be prepared if called upon. In addition to regular daily participation, you will be required to select 2 optional cultural enrichment activities (CultureLab) per semester to enhance your knowledge and understanding of the French-speaking world.

Accountability: If you do not understand information presented during the immersion (all in French) portion of each class period, it is your responsibility to see me after class.

Projects, Oral Presentations and Compositions: This category will include a minimum of one individual project and one group project per semester. Possibilities include: audio and/or video taped skits, recordings of you speaking in French, poetry, and research on the many varied cultures of the French-speaking world. Compositions are written only in French and do not occur until the second semester; however, the presentation of some cultural information will occur in English.

Final Exam: The exam will include a combination of vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, oral comprehension, and cultural knowledge.

Savvy Study Skill: It is important for you to keep all notes, assignments, quizzes and tests to help you review for your final exam. Find a safe place for your work NOW, before it's too late!

Course Procedures:

The Assignment Sheet. Every Monday, you will receive a list of all homework for the week. If you are absent on or including a Monday, be sure to get a copy off of the wall when you return.

Homework @ saintmaryschs.org. If you misplace your assignment sheet, or are absent on a Monday, you can get the assignments by logging on to the Saint Marys website, following the links to my name and eventually to the "le français 1-2" page.

No Late Homework. Homework in foreign language must be done daily and on time in order to build needed skills logically. Thus, if you have an excused absence from school, you should keep up with your work if you are not ill, but you do have as many days as you were absent to make up the work that you have missed. If you miss class for athletics, student government, or any other school event, you do not have a grace period to make up your work; you need to see me *before* class to turn in your work or obtain an extension.

Bottom Line: I generally do not give points or credit for late homework if you are in class on the day it is due. Occasionally I may give half credit, depending on the circumstances, but you should not expect this to be the case. Get in the habit now of doing your work on time, when it will truly help you learn and practice current material.

Technology Excuse. Once per semester, and once only, students can turn in a late project or larger assignment (not homework) without any grade penalty, because of equipment failure. This excuse is only valid for assignments which specifically require some kind of equipment/machine (computer, tape recorder, video camera, etc.). It is never valid for daily homework (which does not need to be typed) or for oral presentations. If you have already used your technology excuse, your project will be downgraded up to 50% for tardiness.

Good News/Bad News: You get one free pass, but after that, the consequences are harsh. Use your free pass responsibly!

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Course Outline Sign Off

Student:

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE COURSE OUTLINE FOR FRENCH 1-2. **BECAUSE THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO MY SUCCESS, I WILL SAVE IT AND REFER TO IT WHEN NECESSARY.**

Signature

Please Print Your Name Here

Parent/Guardian:

Please sign below. If you have any questions you would like to ask, or information you would like me to have about your student, please feel free to phone me at 526-9242 x429 or email me at cmahoney@stmchs.org or even jot your question in the space below with your contact information.

Signature

Please Print Your Name Here

Please detach this sheet after both you and your parent or guardian have signed it and turn it in to me.

***10 points:
due no later than Thursday, 9/2
à rendre avant jeudi le 2 septembre***