

HERNDON MAGNET SCHOOL
11845 Gamm road
Belcher La 71004

FRENCH

Schoolyear 2010-2011

August 17, 2010

Dear parents,

My name is Claudine ELISE and I come from France. This is my second year teaching for Caddo Parish and I am really excited about teaching your child French this year.

Through daily instruction, your child will not only acquire some skills that will enable him/her to communicate in French but also gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Furthermore, connections will be made with other areas of learning (math , social studies, ...). Moreover, studying a foreign language promotes and develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Following is more detailed information regarding my class : discipline in the classroom, course content , testing/grading and materials needed for my class.

1- Discipline

Since teaching and learning can only occur in an orderly environment, each student will be held accountable for his/her behavior. All students are expected to observe the general school rules as well as the following ones :

RULES :

- 1- Listen and follow directions .
- 2- Remain seated.
- 3- Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
- 4- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- 5- Respect all people and materials.

BACKPACKS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN CLASS AFTER LOCKERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED.

CONSEQUENCES :

Name on the board : first warning
Name + 1 x : last warning
Name + 2 x : note or phone call to parents
Name + 3 x : sent to office

Severe clause or repeated misbehavior : sent to office + parents' conference.

REWARDS :

Individual : Students who do not have their name written on the board for 4 weeks may get permission to read their book after taking a quiz or a test. They may also be promoted " Student of the Week " .

Collective : 20 minutes of fun time can be earned by a class ! How? Every time there has been no name written on the board during a French class , a "good behavior dot "will be given to the class . When 20 dots have been accumulated , there will be 20 minutes of "fun time " on the following Friday .

2- Course content

To be able to communicate in the target language is the main goal of this class. The acquisition of a foreign language can be divided into four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

In **Beginning French** listening skills will be our main focus with speaking skills being developed at the appropriate time. Reading and writing skills will be introduced gradually. Here are some of the topics your child will be exposed to more extensively during the school year : greeting people, getting things done in the classroom, using numbers up to 100, locating French speaking countries, learning vocabulary about school supplies, family, clothing, food ,colors etc ...

In **French I** , while listening skills will be our main focus, speaking skills will be more emphasized than at the Beginning French level. Reading for comprehension and writing skills will be developed at the appropriate time. Even though grammar is not the primary goal of this class, your child will progressively be exposed to some of the mechanisms of French . The topics introduced in the previous year will be reinforced throughout the school year.

Here are some of the new topics : rooms and activities in the house, directions, finding one's way in the city, ordering food , talking about likes and dislikes, etc.

It should be understood that French will be used as the means of instruction with English being used as scarcely as possible !

3- Testing/Grading

Most of the tests will be listening comprehension tests. However, as the year goes on, some sections of the tests will consist of reading comprehension.

There will be per grading period up to 9 quizzes and up to 4 tests. Practice sheets done in class will help your child becoming familiar with the testing format. None of the testing will require home study time since a communicative approach is used in class. Therefore, **attendance is of utmost importance.**

All quizzes and tests will be graded according to the standard Caddo Parish grading scale :

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-0 F

4- Materials needed : 1 “ binder, class fee : 5 dollars (a receipt will be issued by the teacher). Students are expected to bring a pen and a pencil at each session.

If you have any questions , please call the school and I will get back in touch with you as soon as possible OR send me an e-mail :

chelise@caddo.k12.la.us

Please return to me the bottom of this page signed to indicate that you have received the information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours ,

Claudine ELISE

Foreign Associate Teacher of French

_____ FRENCH
2010-11 _____ (to be filled & returned)

Student's name _____ Grade _____

Homeroom teacher _____

Parents/guardians' signatures _____