

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **print** your email address(es) if you would like to receive electronic grade updates:

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## French I Madame Bitgood

**Essentials:** Phone extension 1110  
Email: [barbarabitgood@comcast.net](mailto:barbarabitgood@comcast.net) Class website: <http://www.hampfrench.org/>  
Help days: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3 p.m. and by appointment  
Pet peeves: People who arrive late and those who often ask to go to the restroom  
Hobbies: Singing, computer games, collecting Harry Potter Legos

**Goals:** This year you will receive an introduction to the French language. We will work to develop your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in French. You will make your first steps toward communicating in French, as well as learn about the cultures of many places in the French-speaking world. Class meetings will be conducted almost exclusively in French and you will be expected to only speak French in class, which will help you learn the language more quickly.

**Topics:** Greetings, numbers to 1000, telling time, weather, the calendar, friends and family, the home and common objects, foods and beverages, ordering at a café, common activities, opinions, buildings in a city, sports and games, French cities, French-speaking countries of the world, and school in France.

**Rules:** There is one big rule in my class:

**Everyone deserves to be treated with RESPECT at all times.**

What is respect? There are a lot of ways to answer that, but it begins with treating others the same way you want to be treated. Do you want to be teased, interrupted, laughed at, bullied, yelled at, or made to feel dumb? No. So don't do those things to other people.

Violations of school rules will be dealt with as outlined in the student and parent handbooks. This includes enforcement of the absence and tardy policies. Within the classroom, consequences of rule-breaking can include: change of seating, loss of privileges, student-teacher discussion, call to parents, grade penalties, detention, referral to administration, and other appropriate consequences as merited by the situation.

- Procedures:**
1. After the first three weeks of class, you must speak French upon crossing the threshold into the classroom. By that time you will have learned many useful expressions and will no longer need to use English in class. Many informative posters can be found around the room if you need to make a request or find a common vocabulary word. Grade penalties as outlined below will result from use of a language other than French after the three week adjustment period.
  2. Seats are assigned by the teacher and can be changed by her at any time. If you are having trouble with your current seat, tell Mme Bitgood and you may be moved.
  3. Every day you must have the necessary supplies with you when you get to class. Please bring your covered textbook, notebook, homework, a blue or black pen, pencil, and blank paper. Please do not use gel pens or any pen color other than blue or black. I will not correct or grade anything I can't easily read.
  4. Homework is due when you walk into class. No late homework will be graded, although I am always happy to correct work for you. Projects will be accepted late with a reduction of one letter grade for each school day after the due date.
  5. Please use the restroom, chat with teachers, and go to your locker between classes. You are responsible for any information and/or materials you miss while you are out of the room. No passes will be issued in the first 15 minutes of class.
  6. You may not use any portable music, game, telephone or TV devices in class.
  7. Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking. You may not be called on every time you raise your hand, or you may be called on when you didn't volunteer. This is not because I want to ignore or embarrass you. It's because we all learn best by participating, and everyone should have as many chances as possible to be actively involved in class.
  8. Remember that many of life's problems can be prevented or solved with a little communication. If you are having difficulty in class, please come talk to me. We can usually find a solution. I stay after school for extra help on Tuesdays and Thursdays, plus you may be able to see me other days and times by appointment.

**Grading:** Your semester grade is comprised of your first marking period final grade (45%) + second marking period final grade (45%) + final exam grade (10%).

**50%** of your grade for each marking period is the average of your written assessments, such as tests, quizzes, and projects. These assignments are graded for effort and accuracy.

**25%** of your final grade for each marking period is the average of your practice assignments, such as homework and written classwork. These assignments are graded for completion and effort rather than accuracy.

**25%** of your final grade for each marking period is the average of your oral participation, such as oral quizzes, conversations, and class participation. Every day you begin class with four (4) oral participation points. Using a language other than French during class time will result in a loss of one (1) point. Repeated use of a language other than French will result in the loss of additional points until the day's oral participation grade reaches zero (0). Failure to participate in class activities will also result in loss of points.

The use of English in expressions such as “Comment dit-on \_\_\_\_\_ en français” (How do you say...?) will not be penalized. Use of English when I have the Français/English sign switched to English will also not be penalized. If you have an urgent need that you feel cannot be expressed in French, you should ask for and be granted permission before using English; i.e. “Est-ce que je peux parler anglais?”

Numeric equivalents for letter grades on projects and papers:

AA	100	C+	78	F	50
A	95	C	75	0/No credit	0
A-	92	C-	72		
B+	88	D+	68		
B	85	D	65		
B-	82	D-	62		

Because I keep track of grades on the computer, I can easily email progress updates. Email grade reports contain the current average, grades for all assignments, and a list of missing work. Please indicate at the top of the first page if you would like to receive progress updates by email.