

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

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

French 4

Mme Bitgood & Mlle Wetterlow

- Essentials:** Phone extension 1110
Email: Barbara Bitgood - bbitgood@northampton-k12.us
Erica Wetterlow – ewetterl@frital.umass.edu
Class website: <http://moodle.hamphigh.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 leave the room.
Favorites: Positive attitudes, dependability, hard workers
- Goals:** This semester you will continue to develop your communication skills in French. We will revisit topics that you saw in your previous French courses, adding to your vocabulary and deepening your knowledge of grammar. We will spend considerable time working on conversational skills and reading authentic French-language texts, including the classic work *Le Petit Prince*. Class meetings will be conducted exclusively in French and you are expected to speak only French in class.
- Topics:** Shopping for clothing, vacation and travel, cars and driving, narrating in the past tenses, narrating in the future and conditional tenses, expressing emotions and doubts with the subjunctive tense, *contes* of the French-speaking world, Francophone Africa, twentieth century art and literary movements in France, and *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.
- Dictionaries:** At this stage of your French studies, it is essential that you invest in a good-quality French-English dictionary to use at home. An Internet-based dictionary will not suffice. My personal preference is for the Larousse or Robert, although other good editions can certainly be found. A good dictionary for your level will have between 50,000 and 100,000 entries and may include charts for verb conjugations, idioms, or grammar. Choose a dictionary that you find logical and easy to use. Some paperback dictionaries available at local and online bookstores are the *Larousse Concise Dictionary* with 100,000 entries (\$12), *Cassell's French-English Dictionary* with 55,000 entries (\$8), and the *Pocket Oxford Hachette French Dictionary* with 90,000 entries (\$12). See the class website for links to dictionaries that I recommend. If you are having difficulty getting a dictionary, please come see me. You **must** have access to a dictionary outside of class.

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

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 will 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. Upon crossing the threshold into the classroom, you must speak French. No English-language discussion will be tolerated at any time. Grade penalties as outlined below will result from use of a language other than French.
 2. Every day you must have the necessary supplies with you when you get to class. Please bring your notebook, homework, a blue or black pen, pencil, blank paper, and your covered textbook.
 3. 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 25 minutes before lunch.
 4. You may not use any portable music, game, telephone or video devices in class at any time. Any such device will be confiscated if it is visible.
 5. Do not chew or eat anything while in the classroom. This includes candy, gum, your breakfast, snacks, lunch, or toothpicks.
 6. 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 us. We can usually find a solution. We stay after school for extra help on Tuesdays and Thursdays, plus you may be able to see us other days and times by appointment.

Homework Policy: You are responsible for independently doing whatever studying and/or practice activities that are necessary to master the language and maintain a good grade.

You will usually have required assignments to do at home, however some assignments will be optional. You may choose to do any optional homework assignment for extra credit. Optional assignments that you do not complete will not be counted against your average. **Students who are struggling may be required to do all homework assignments until their performance improves.**

Homework is due when you walk into class. No late homework will be graded, although we are always happy to correct work for you. Students who are absent will have a grace period in which to make up their work with no penalty, as outlined in the student handbook. Projects and essays receiving letter grades will be accepted late with a reduction of one letter grade for each school day after the due date.

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

Each of the three communicative modes that we practice is equally weighted in determining your grade:

33% of your final grade for each marking period reflects your Interpretive Communication skill (the ability to understand spoken and written French), evaluated through listening and reading comprehension activities, follow-up on presentations by your peers, etc.

33% of your final grade for each marking period reflects your Presentational Communication skill, (the ability to make a written or oral presentation with time to prepare, rehearse and revise), evaluated through oral presentations, plays and skits, written tests and quizzes, essays, and other written assignments

34% of your final grade for each marking period reflects your Interpersonal Communication skill (the ability to speak and write spontaneously, without time to prepare, rehearse or revise), such as oral quizzes, conversations, informal writing assessment, and class participation. Every day you will 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” 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?”

We will share your daily participation grade with you if you ask, but we will not point out every individual moment during class when you lose points. You can assume that if you chose to use English without permission, you were penalized.

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 we keep track of grades on the computer, we 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.