

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 5 Mme Bitgood

- Essentials:** Phone extension 1110  
Email: [bbitgood@northampton-k12.us](mailto:bbitgood@northampton-k12.us) 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 through an exploration of the theme “L’enfance et l’adolescence”. We will spend considerable time working on conversational skills, improving your listening comprehension, and reading authentic French-language texts. You will also be introduced to the French writing form of *explication de texte*. We will continue to use *Discovering French Rouge* as our vocabulary and grammar reference. Class meetings will be conducted exclusively in French and you are required to speak only French in class.
- Topics:** Readings will primarily connect to the theme of childhood and adolescence, including *Fables* by La Fontaine, *Petit Nicolas*, by Sempé and Goscinny, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* by Molière, and *Moderato Cantabile* by Marguerite Duras, as well as the films *Rue Cases-Nègres* and *Argent de poche*. Grammar instruction will emphasize the subjunctive mood, compound tenses, the simultaneous use of all major verb tenses, and relative pronouns. Vocabulary will focus on enhancing your writing and enabling you to live abroad for an extended time. We will also do some preparation for the SAT Subject Test in French.
- Dictionaries:** At this stage of your French studies, it is essential that you invest in a good-quality French-English dictionary. 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 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). If you are having difficulty getting a dictionary, please come see me.

**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. Repeated use of English will result in a detention.
  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 whatever book is needed for that day.
  4. 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.
  5. 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.
  6. Do not chew or eat anything while in the classroom. This includes candy, gum, your breakfast, snacks, lunch, or toothpicks.
  7. 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.

**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.

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.