

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

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

French 5 Mme Bitgood

Essentials: Phone extension 1110 Website: <http://home.comcast.net/~hampfrench>
Email: barbarabitgood@comcast.net
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 semester you will continue to develop your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in French through an exploration of the theme “L’enfance et l’adolescence dans les cultures francophones”. 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*. Specific grammar lessons will be chosen based on your needs. Class meetings will be conducted exclusively in French and you are required to speak only French in class.

Topics: The theme of childhood and adolescence will guide the selection of course materials, which will include *Fables* by La Fontaine, *Petit Nicolas*, by Sempé and Goscinny, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* by Molière, *Candide* by Voltaire, *Moderato Cantabile* by Marguerite Duras, as well as the films *Rue Cases-Nègres*, *Au revoir, les enfants*, and *Gaz-Bar Blues*. Grammar instruction will emphasize the subjunctive mood, compound tenses, the simultaneous use of all major verb tenses, and relative pronouns. Vocabulary will be focused on enriching and enhancing your written and conversational communication. 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: 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 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 whatever book is needed for that day.
 3. 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 and essays receiving letter grades will be accepted late with a reduction of one letter grade for each school day after the due date.
 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.
 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 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: **50%** of your final grade for each marking period is the average of your written assessments, such as written quizzes, projects, and essays. These assignments are graded for effort and accuracy.

25% of your final grade for each marking period is the average of your oral participation, such as oral quizzes, conversations, presentations, 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" 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?"

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.

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

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 mail.