



FRENCH CURRICULUM GUIDE

The goal of our French program at the Grammar School is to see students through to a point where they have the ability to understand and communicate in basic French. We will work heavily in the area of oral expression but will begin in first grade with some very basic in-class writing and reading tasks. These will be progress in difficulty through the grades and eventually become the foundation for later work in writing and reading.

In French class this year, in most grades, we will be using textbooks. In those for which I do not have textbooks I will be working to find the most engaging material for the students to work with, to help develop the four major skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. We will also be reading some history books for children, in English, about some of the most important people in French history. Details by grade for the curriculum can be found below.

Kindergarten:

We will begin the year with a unit called *Me* based on a Canadian curriculum. The children will learn how to talk about their size, hair and eye color, age, and birthday. I will supplement this with songs, books, and small art projects.

Other topics we will learn this year are numbers to 12, colors, shapes, fruits and vegetables, farm animals, and family.

First grade:

We will begin the year with a unit called *Me* based on a Canadian curriculum. The children will learn how to talk about their size, hair and eye color, age, and birthday. I will supplement this with songs, books, and small art projects.

This year we will also learn numbers to 30, some sports terms, more food words, basic emotions, days of the week, and furniture words. We will review old material as we go.

Second grade:

We will begin the year with a unit called *Me*, based on a Canadian curriculum. The children will learn how to talk about their size, hair and eye color, age, and birthday. I will supplement this with songs, books, and small art projects.

This year we will also learn numbers to 60, the alphabet, school words, the weather, months and seasons, physical feelings, pets, and café foods and begin working on writing these words.

Third grade:

We will use the textbook *Grenadine*, which is full of fun images and comes with a CD and workbook to be used in class. We will be revisiting much of the vocabulary covered in earlier grades, but adding to it and doing more written work. Students will be introduced to French articles and easy present tense verbs. I will continue to use games and songs in class. Meals, outdoor vocabulary, and numbers to 100 will be among the new things worked on.

Fourth grade:

Alex et Zoé will be the text for the fourth grade. This well designed children's book has comics, a cd, a workbook and activities in French. Like *Grenadine*, it is designed specifically for young learners of French and it builds upon and enhances knowledge acquired in earlier years. New vocabulary for the fourth grade will include more school words, more work on numbers, and places.

Fifth grade:

For the fifth grade, we will be using a text called *Flo*. *Flo* works in the same style as the earlier textbooks, carrying learners along with intriguing images and fun stories. Grammar will be more purposefully addressed with an introduction to subject pronouns and a more careful eye to the recognition of the verb in French. We will work on negation, numbers from 100-1000, telling partial hour time, and more writing. There will be 10-20 minutes of homework once or twice a week.

Sixth grade:

This year, the sixth grade will be using the textbook *Discovering French in the Classroom*, and most nights there will be 10 – 20 minutes of homework. We will study greetings, time, restaurant foods and ordering more formally, add some new verbs, and hone conjugation and spelling of the ubiquitous four: être, avoir, aller, and faire. We will do some simple reading, sing songs, and study a poem or two.

Seventh grade:

Seventh grade will use *Discovering French* beginning at Chapter 4, as well as doing some reading from the book *Pauvre Anne*. The textbook begins with a chapter on activities, moves on to prepositions and places, how to talk about where you live, use of the verb “to come” and many other things. Our reading of *Pauvre Anne* will give us a chance to see larger passages of French and discuss the ideas and facts presented in the text. We will also sing songs, and study a poem or two. There will be 15-30 minutes of homework nightly.

Eighth grade:

This year we will be reading *Fama goes to California* and loosely following the textbook *Discovering French Blanc*. We will be expanding our vocabulary by working on getting to know the one hundred most common verbs in French. We will study some songs, learn a poem or two and discuss our readings in class. During the second half of the year, we will work on past tenses. These students already have some idea of the two more common forms, but we will work more intensely on their uses. There will be 15-30 minutes of homework nightly.