

French 2 (Grade 8)
2011-2012

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Course Description

French II is equivalent to French II at the Upper School. French II builds upon the basic comprehension and production skills learned in French IA and IB and delves further into the nuances of the French language. We continue to use the immersion approach to fine tune receptive language skills (listening and reading) as well as to gain a beginning mastery of expressive language skills (speaking and writing). At this level, communication through writing and speaking in French take on larger roles. Hence, it is crucial to only speak in French once the threshold of the classroom is crossed. Daily practice and study are important in order to be able to converse with French native speakers. A select group of 8th grade Holland Hall French students have the opportunity to experience total immersion while living in French host families and attending La Providence, a private school, located in Tulsa's sister city of Amiens, France.

Learning Objectives and Benchmarks

French II Benchmarks in *Language Recognition Skills* are as follows: 1. Actively listens and discovers new vocabulary expressions and grammatical patterns in context of visual clues, gestures, and previous knowledge; and 2. Reads dialogues, letters, poems, stories, paragraphs, and one-page articles focusing on familiar words and cognates to discover main ideas. French II benchmarks in *Language Production Skills* are as follows: 1. Reacts to statements and questions in complete French sentences with near-native pronunciation; 2. Applies core grammar concepts accurately in controlled oral and written exercises; 3. Writes coherent paragraphs about familiar themes using core vocabulary expressions and grammar concepts with little English interference.

Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

Discovering French Nouveau Blanc 2 textbook, Blanc 2 Workbook, Blanc 2 Activité pour tous Workbook, Lecture pour tous Workbook, Little Prince, DVD's, CD-Rom programs, CD's, realia magazines and items, songs, poems, dialogue, and foods are all part of the French II course materials.

Methods of Instruction

The method of instruction for French II is based on brain research and Gardner's multiple intelligences. For most of us, learning a language other than our maternal language is a challenging endeavor after the age of about eleven, which is when the language centers of the brain have reached maturity and become more fixed. Linguists say that the window for speech recognition starts to close down as early as ten months of age, though the circuitry for picking up syntax stays open until age five or six. The circuits of acquiring vocabulary never close. Fortunately, our brain is malleable and language learning at any age is a worthwhile experience on many levels. It strengthens the brain as new neurological connections are made, and the language areas of the temporal and frontal lobe grow. In order to help create and to build

strong neurological connections for the French language, all of the multiple intelligences are targeted through music, movement, math, stories, songs, poems, pictures, cooperative groups, intrapersonal work, language labs, reading, writing, realia items from France, current affairs, guests, and food. We create meaningful and emotional connections to the French language and culture in the school environment.

Assessment

Different point values are assigned to all aspects of the student's efforts to attain fluency in the French language. The student's accumulated points in each category of academic performance will be divided by the total points possible at each marking period. Participation in class, staying in French, homework, preparation, materials management, dictations, recitations, quizzes, unit tests, projects, and the cumulative final exam are all areas of formal assessment. Each student maintains a portfolio of their work as a way of demonstrating their growth throughout the year. Successful completion of French II and a grade of 80% or higher on a proficiency exam in April will allow a student to advance directly to French III in the Upper School.

Projected Course Schedule

French II covers the following six major units : Unit 1- Who Am I?, Unit 2 – The Weekend, Finally!, Unit 3 – Bon Appetit!, Unit 4 – Free-Time Activities, Unit 5 – Vive le sport!, and Unit 6 – At Our House.