French 1 & 2 Mr. Kirschling

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES** - Here are the top four:

• Demonstrate an ability to communicate in and understand French;

• Develop an awareness of French speaking areas of the world;

• Develop insights into your own language and culture;

• Expand your knowledge about other disciplines.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS** –

• 100+ page spiral or composition notebook

• loose leaf paper and something to write with

• a thumb drive

**SYLLABUS** – The outlines of our basic work are primarily defined by high frequency vocabulary structures.

**ATTENDANCE** - **You will lose participation points when you are late (1-2 percentage points) or absent (3-5 percentage points) depending on how late, excused or unexcused**. Learning a language is like becoming good at a sport or musical instrument; if you miss practice you fall behind; you can’t fake it.

**MAKEUP: You will be given a zero for the absence until you** **complete an extra assignment along with any work missed**. Assignments include: drawing/writing/telling a story to your teacher/family members; listening to a recording of a story and answering questions, reading and summarizing a children’s book; writing a paragraph about a relevant cultural item of interest to you; learning a French song and singing it to the class.

**GRADES** - **You will earn your grade based on the following:**

• class participation

• quizzes & tests

• assignments & projects

• Excel time

**Class Participation**:

**You will EARN points when you:**

• **Pay attention** and give 100% *all 50/95* minutes & follow directions

• Have a good time and **help make the class fun** and interesting

• **Act** in the stories and volunteer for story retells

• **Ask and answer** questions

• **Use French** exclusively in the class

• Do all the **gestures**

• **Contribute ideas** on how to remember words

• Demonstrate **good sportsmanship** and encourage/praise others/help others learn

• *Have your notebook with you everyday*

**Class Participation (cont.)**:

**You will LOSE points when you:**

• Are **late or absent**

• Don’t pay attention and **don't try**

• Are **disrespectful**, mean, negative, hateful, whiny, etc.

• Use English (o español ☺)

• Attempt to use your cell phones, ipods, etc. in class

• Are off-task and/or don’t practice with your partners

• Distract others

• Interrupt others when speaking

**Assessment:** You will be given a quiz at least once or twice a week following CI. You will also be assessed on reading, writing and speaking.

**Homework:** All students will be required to earn 50 points per week on their World Language Game accounts located on my TJ wiki page. *Late and incomplete work will be given half credit at best.*

**Excel Time: You are required to log 50 minutes of Excel time every 6 weeks.** (You will receive a 6 week Excel time grade for coming in to speak French with me, read, browse, review, etc.) You must pick up and drop off any extra or missing assignments during Excel Time. *This will not be done during regular class time.*

**APPROACH** – The approach to language learning in this course centers on comprehensible input (CI) based methods used to develop fluency. CI allows you to learn French in much the same way you learned your first language: by listening to and reading interesting things. French is spoken at least 95% of classtime. We develop much of the course content together.

***TPR****:* You begin the year by acquiring a broad vocabulary base using Total Physical Response (TPR). You act out, point to, or otherwise respond physically to individual words and to narrative commands. Research on how we learn has proven that we remember better and longer what we have experienced kinesthetically. Gesturing and acting out commands will help you acquire the language more quickly.

**STORYASKING**: Although TPR is important, you will not spend all your time responding to commands. By the end of the first weeks you will create and act out your first story. Vocabulary acquisition will be a major focus of our early work, but you will be acquiring a sense of the structure of the French language at the same time.

**READING:** Reading plays an extremely important role in language acquisition and fluency; the competency gains to be made through reading are phenomenal. Over the school year you will read novelettes, your own story creations, and be given class time to do Free Voluntary Reading (self selected materials).

**GRAMMAR:** A typical textbook outline cannot be used to describe the learning sequence in an input based classroom, especially where structure is concerned. You acquire basic grammatical concepts because you are exposed to them daily in the stories; indeed, students exposed to CI acquire more advanced grammar sooner than students in traditional grammar driven curriculums. Class time is better spent allowing you to hear, read and practice the spoken and written language than studying grammar rules.

**Autobiographical sketch:** Student taught with TJ's Mr. Coleman and has been helping other Spartans learn French and Spanish for the last 17 years. Loves teaching and is inspired by his students and colleagues. Has worked and traveled in over 35 countries on 5 continents. Is part of a small leadership team of educators developing assessments and curriculum materials for DPS World Languages. Took his 8th student group to France in 2012

**Dear Parents & Guardians,**

*Email is the best way to get in touch with me*. Please fill out the following with the child in your care and let me know which is the best way to get in touch with you. Merci!

Name and relation to student: Name and relation to student:

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*Please initial or sign below. Thank you!*

We have read, understood and agree to the classroom rules, procedures and requirements.

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