

French High school curriculum 2012-2013

The French heritage language high school curriculum covers 30 weeks of instruction, running from Sept 25 to June 5, taking account of days-off and school holidays, and can be implemented with a minimum of 1,5 hours of instruction a week. It is organized in 6 project-units each based on a specific theme. The thematic progression is made so students learn the French language starting with themselves and then expanding towards their family, community and the French-speaking world, until the students fully take full possession of their Francophone heritage by creating their own end-of-year project-unit:

1. Who I am : self-portrait (5 lessons, 1 Oct – 5 Nov)
2. Family and community relations (6 lessons, 5 Nov - 21 Dec)
3. Theatre and Cinema (3 lessons, 2 Jan – 27 Jan)
4. Francophonie : Identity and Diversity in a global world (6 lessons, 27 Jan – 10 Mar)
5. Essay writing contest unit (5 lessons, 10 Mar – 27 Apr)
6. End-of-year class project (5 lessons, 27 Apr – 5 Jun)

Each unit is project-based and relies on differentiated, collaborative pedagogy. Major points of the French language will be broached, with a particular focus on literacy as well as reading and writing skills, as these are the language targets our students are traditionally most in demand. Resources used in the classroom include short movies, literary texts, the press, songs, and other media, all taken from the diversity of French-speaking cultures. Through the use of these resources, students also learn general academic language skills including analyzing primary sources, comparing them, quoting from them, building arguments, developing abstract ideas, creating and organizing.

Assessment is only possible through steady attendance of participants and includes continuous evaluation throughout the 6 project-units, as well as SAT 2 and AP French exams for schools guaranteeing their students a minimum of 3 hours of French instruction a week, with specific AP French prep class from the beginning of the school year.

For other schools limited to 1,5h/week, SAT 2 and AP French prep will be offered as a basic introduction to these exams. We will however soon be able to identify students who are in capacity to take these exams with limited preparation and help them do so.

Course development

1. Who I am : self-portrait (5 lessons, 1 Oct – 5 Nov)

Description : Students discover various francophone figures and, through these portraits, are gradually made to speak and write about themselves, their own character, past memories and habits.

Resources : Portrait images, Hip Hop Song (Akhenaton, *Je suis Peut-être*), Literary text (Fatou Diome, *Le Ventre de l'Atlantique*, for advanced students), Short Film Documentary (Tinan Leroy's TV interview)

Language : adjectives related to physical appearance and character, past, present tenses, genders.

Final task : Students realize their own self-portraits using different forms and media (poster, photos, songs, stand-up comedy, video)

2. Family and community relations (6 lessons, 5 Nov - 21 Dec)

Description : exploring family relations, conflicts, love, cultural differences and traditions, students develop strong language interaction skills inherent to living together and better understanding their immediate communities.

Resources : Ivoirian TV soap opera *Ma Famille*, Graphic novel *Aya de Yopougon*, song *Letter à ma fille* by Idir. (Jacques Brel, *Quand on a que l'amour*, for advanced students)

Language: family vocabulary, genders, imperative, subjunctive and conditional tenses, expressions related to agreement and disagreement, subordinate clauses.

Final task: Groups of 4 students write a short theater piece to be performed on stage

3. Theater / Cinema (3 lessons : 2 janv – 27 janv)

Description : This short sequence allows eligible students to rehearse for the theater contest at the Lycée Français de New York. Classes that are not taking part in the contest will work on movies including *Little Senegal*, *La graine et le Mulet*, *l'Armée de Crime* or *Welcome*

Final task: Discovering French-speaking cinema cultures.

At this point of the school year, teachers will have precisely identified which students should register for the SAT 2 French or AP French, according to their performance over the 1st 3 months in the French class.

4. Francophonie : Identity and Diversity in a global world (6 lessons, 27 Jan – 10 Mar)

Description : Here students learn about the diversity of French-speaking cultures in the world and the many challenges it poses, including defining notions like identity, multiculturalism and integration.

Resources: Newspapers' articles, short movies, literature, songs, film documentary.

Language: past participles, passive mood, adverbial clauses, quoting from primary and secondary resources, comparing, analyzing, and connecting.

Final task : Through the creation of a blog with written articles and/or video clips, groups of students realize a short documentary piece about their respective French-speaking communities in the United States, figuring out how they manage to live with their heritage in a minority context.

Bonus : online production of best documentaries on MyTransatlanticSchool.net. Correspondence with students from another High School in France or in another French-speaking country.

5. Essay writing contest unit (5 lessons, 10 Mar – 27 Apr)

Description : Unit centered around the human rights and democracy.

Resources: political articles, films

Language : building argumentation, general rhetoric, convincing, essay writing

Final Task : 400-word essay

Bonus : contest exam, best essays selected for big prize award!

7. End-of-year class project (5 lessons, 27 Apr – 5 Jun)

Description : The definition and realization of this final project is entirely left to the teacher and his/her students.

Resources: all that apply

Language: all that apply

Final Task : The final task can be related to taking part in the building of our annual summer camp (fundraising, logo designing, communication...)

Bonus : Having one's final task featured and used in a professional context.