

French 8 - Course Overview for Students and Parents - 2019-2020

Bienvenue à la classe de Français 8! The general goal of French 8 is to provide students with a level of proficiency in French language skills in four main communicative areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It is the overall goal that students will be able to communicate at a basic level in a second language in a variety of situations. In order to achieve this goal, students will communicate in French as much as possible.

This year's French 8 students will be introduced to a language leaning method called AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology). This is a language learning method which uses scaffolding techniques, such as: story-telling, gestures, active collaboration and repetition. The use of high-frequency vocabulary, introduced with gestures and contextualized in stories, drama, songs and dance, allows students to rapidly achieve levels of oral and written proficiency. Attendance and participation are critical for students to make the most out of this program (and to have the most amount of fun!). Please see the attached letter for more detailed information on this program.

Big Ideas:

1. Listening and viewing with intent supports our acquisition and understanding of French.
2. We can express ourselves and talk about the world around us in French.
3. With increasing fluency in French, we can participate more actively in reciprocal interactions.
4. We can share our experiences and perspectives through stories.
5. We can experience authentic Francophone cultures through creative works.
6. Our understanding of cultures is influenced by the languages we speak and the communities with which we engage.

Core Competencies

Teaching and learning in this course will focus on the 6 major Core Competencies as per district and provincial curriculum guidelines. These 6 Core Competencies are:

Communication: How students exchange information, experiences and ideas.

Creative Thinking: How students generate new ideas and take them from thought to reality.

Critical Thinking: How students make judgements based on reasoning and available information.

Positive Personal & Cultural Identity: How students create healthy personal and cultural awareness in a pluralistic society.

Personal Awareness & Responsibility: How students develop awareness of skills and strategies to stay healthy both physically and mentally.

Social Responsibility: How students contribute positively to their families, community, society, and the environment.

Materials:

Students must arrive each class prepared with the necessary materials: a three-ring binder with lined paper, a pencil and/or pen, an eraser, and any other required course materials.

It is very important to be organized! Students will receive a lot of handouts and they must be able to keep them and find them later! It is highly recommended that you have a three-ring binder in which to keep the handouts you receive!

THE USE OF COMPUTER TRANSLATORS IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT AT CARIBOO HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL. The use of Google Translate and other translation sites is NOT PERMITTED! If your teacher thinks you have used a translator, you will receive a score of 0, the administration will be informed, and you will be asked to do the assignment again.

Electronics:

Electronics (specifically, cell phones) are NOT allowed in this class! Students are expected to use electronics (such as cell phones) in a responsible and learning-friendly manner. The phones must be out of sight (in a bag or pocket) for the duration of the class (silent mode). If the teacher sees a phone in the classroom, it will be taken from the student and put in a locked cupboard for the rest of the class.

My website:

Please check my website (www.sd41blogs.ca/winters/) for updates on project due dates and test/quiz dates. It will be updated regularly with links to relevant documents. You will also find links to this course outline, the school website and the bell schedule.

The school app:

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to download the school's **Cariboo Hill 2 Go** app on their phones. It's a good way to stay current with school events and information.

Course evaluation:

Students will be evaluated in a variety of different ways. As in any language class, learning and assessment will focus on 4 main language components: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Please note that grade 8 and 9 students at Cariboo Hill do not receive percentage marks on report cards, only **letter grades are given at the end of each term and as a final grade!**

Portfolios:

All students will compile a portfolio of their work that will be included in their Term 2 mark. This will give students an opportunity to reflect on their work and work habits to date and to set goals for themselves for the rest of the school year. Portfolios will include a reflection piece on which students will also be assessed. Students will be reminded about this and will receive a detailed explanation in Term 2. So, do not throw away the work that has been returned to you!

Absence and Missed Work:

Attendance in class is very important! If a student misses a class, it is necessary for a parent/guardian to contact the teacher or school office. The secretary at the office can be contacted by phone at **(604) 296-6890**.

Missed evaluations:

If a student misses an evaluation (test/quiz), he/she must complete this evaluation not more than **1 week later** or he/she will not receive the mark for this assessment. It is essential that you come to see me before a planned absence or immediately upon your return to school to make the arrangements to do the evaluation during lunch or after school.

Missing work:

If a student is missing an assignment, it will not be accepted after being corrected and returned to the other students. After this time, the missing assignment will be noted as 0. If a student wants to receive credit for this assignment, he/she must complete an alternative (probably longer and/or more difficult) assignment.

Homework checks:

Homework will be checked regularly. If a student misses a homework check and the absence is not excused, the student will miss the credit for this check. It is essential that absences/lateness be excused by a parent/guardian by calling the school or sending an email directly to the teacher! Also, if a student is late and is not excused and misses a homework check, he/she will not receive credit for the homework check.

I am available during lunch or after school (usually until at least 4:00) if you have any questions. I can be contacted at: **sarah.winter@burnabyschools.ca** or by calling the school at **604-296-6890 ext. 606302**.

Thank you and I hope we have a good year together!

Sincerely,

Sarah Winter