



FRENCH CURRICULUM, 2009 - 2010

The goal of the French program at The Grammar School is to have students attain a level of ability where they can understand and communicate in basic French. We will work closely in the area of oral expression in all classes. In first grade we will begin with some very basic writing and reading tasks. These will progress in difficulty and become the foundation for later work in writing and reading through the grades.

In French class this year, in most grades, we will be using textbooks, CDs, written workbooks, and online resources may be used as well. Our goal is to develop the four foreign language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. When relevant, French history and culture will be highlighted as they pertain to topics that arise in class. Details by grade for the curriculum can be found below.

In kindergarten this year we will be touching on many topics using songs, games, movement, coloring, and stories as avenues of exploration. Class will be fun and engaging, fostering enjoyment of the language. Simple French vocabulary will relate to the body, the farm, the house, food, appearances, the alphabet, the weather, colors, and numbers. Class meets two times a week, once for 30 minutes and once for 45 minutes, in the kindergarten room.

In first grade we will review and build upon vocabulary acquired in kindergarten, such as numbers, colors, body descriptions, foods, the alphabet, and classroom words. Through drawing, coloring, movement, miming, games, and songs, we will learn and /or expand upon topics such as the house, the town, clothing, and classroom activities and objects. We will also be doing basic writing in a book called *Chiffres, Couleurs, Verbes et Phrases*. French class meets two times a week, once for 30 minutes and once for 45 minutes, in the first grade room.

The second grade will be working with a book called *Grenadine* that comes with a CD and a writing workbook. The book is structured to work on units that incorporate a song, phonetic activities, games, and reading and writing, all built around a body of vocabulary. Topics reviewed and covered will be greetings, possessions, colors, the alphabet, activities, food, days of the week, clothing, months, homes, telling time, and families. Additionally, the new language series Qtalk, which employs pictures as a mechanism to promote oral proficiency, will be used to get students speaking more in class. The second and third grades will combine to meet in two multi-age groups, each group meeting two times a week for 45 minutes in the French room.

The third grade will continue to work in *Grenadine*, with the CD and writing workbook. The book is structured to work on units that incorporate a song, phonetic activities, games, and reading and writing, all built around a body of vocabulary. Topics reviewed and covered will be greetings, possessions, colors, the alphabet, activities, food, days of the week, clothing, months, homes, telling time, and families. Additionally, the new language series Qtalk, which employs pictures as a mechanism to promote oral proficiency, will be used to get students speaking more in class. The second and third grades will combine to meet in two multi-age groups, each group meeting two times a week for 45 minutes in the French room.

Alex et Zoé will be the text for the fourth grade. This well-designed children's book employs comics, a CD, and a writing workbook as tools to engage students. The series, designed specifically for young learners of French, is structured in units that incorporate a song, games, and reading and writing built around a body of vocabulary. Topics covered include greetings, activities, clothing, foods, the body, and places. Additionally, the new language series *Qtalk*, which employs pictures as a mechanism to promote oral proficiency, will be used to get students speaking more in class. Class meets two times a week, once for 30 minutes and once for 45 minutes, in the fourth grade room.

For the fifth grade, we will be continuing in the series *Alex et Zoé*. This well-designed children's book employs comics, a CD, and a writing workbook as tools to engage students. The series is designed specifically for young learners of French and is structured to work on units that incorporate a song, games, and reading and writing built around a body of vocabulary. Topics covered include greetings, activities, clothing, foods, the body, and places. Additionally, the new language series *Qtalk*, which employs pictures as a mechanism to promote oral proficiency, will be used to get students speaking more in class. Class meets two times a week for 45 minutes, in the French room.

In the sixth grade we will use the text *Fluo*. Students will recognize similarities with books used in previous grades, as this textbook intrigues learners with comic strips and culturally rich chapters. An accompanying CD provides a sound track of native French speakers with authentic accents for auditory and oral exercises, and a workbook provides written exercises. The series, designed specifically for young learners of French, is structured in units that incorporate songs, games, and reading and writing built around a body of vocabulary. Topics include French families and names, back to school, school objects, food in France, animals, sports and the body, and traveling in France. Additionally, the new language series *Qtalk*, which employs pictures as a mechanism to promote oral proficiency, will be used to get students speaking more in class. There will be regular homework assignments. Class meets three times a week for 45 minutes in the French room.

In seventh and eighth grades we will be using the textbook *Amis et compagnie*. This series is designed with middle school students in mind, featuring teenage characters and engaging adventures with the Three Musketeers. An accompanying CD provides a sound track of native French speakers with authentic accents for auditory and oral exercises, and a workbook provides written exercises. Young learners of French will enjoy the songs, games, and reading and writing built around a body of vocabulary. Topics in this series include school belongings, family, tastes, favorite activities, towns and schedules, descriptions of people, clothing and parties, the house and meals. Additionally, the new language series *Qtalk*, which employs pictures as a mechanism to promote oral proficiency, will be used to get students speaking more in class. There will be regular homework. The seventh and eighth grades will combine to meet in two multi-age groups, each group meeting three times a week, twice for 40 minutes and once for 50 minutes, in the French room.