

***Français de base : maternelle* (Basic French : Kindergarten)**

The AIM (Accelerated Integrated Method).

This program has proven to be a revolutionary new approach to second language instruction. It is based upon the use of stories and music for the teaching of French. Specifically designed stories that are written in the form of plays become the focus for a range of motivating language activities that help students develop confidence and competence in the language as they progress through each story unit.

This approach allows language development to be supported and nurtured within the familiar, predictable context of a story that is the focus for the unit's work. Music is integrated with the story, and in each unit of this program, students will learn to perform a play and a dance to accompany that play. The vocabulary has been carefully selected as essential for students during the initial stages of their language learning. Another component of this program is the Gesture Approach, a technique that uses hand signs to help students learn and remember this important vocabulary found in the plays, songs and other activities. There is an equal, strong emphasis on the development of all four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) through a program that meets the needs of all language learners and their learning styles. Activities are varied, so that students have the opportunity to work individually, in partners, in small groups, and as a whole class.

In order to do well in French this year, your child will:

- participate actively in class, in French only;
- memorize the play;
- work cooperatively with others in the class while answering questions;
- learn the gestures covered in class;
- learn the gesture associations;
- participate in songs, dances, chants, raps and games with enthusiasm;
- complete class work;
- seek help when needed.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- learn the words in this unit;
- use French spontaneously, both with the teacher and with peers;
- pronounce words correctly;

- answer questions based on the story;
- perform the play;
- listen well;
- cooperate with peers while working with a partner;
- participate with enthusiasm;
- complete work on time;
- stay focused and productive in class.

Any questions, comments or concerns can be directed to Holly Dandonneau (French teacher) by phone (489-2115) or by e-mail (dandonneau@sjbcommunity.ca).

***Français de base : 4, 5, 6* (Basic French : 4, 5, 6)**

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In order to do well in French this year, your child will:

- participate actively in class, in French only;
- memorize the play;
- work cooperatively within a small group while practicing the play;
- work cooperatively with others in the class while answering questions, both orally and in written form;

- learn the gestures covered in class;
- learn the gesture associations;
- participate in songs, dances, and games with enthusiasm;
- complete class work and hand it in on time;
- keep corrections up-to-date;
- seek help when needed.



Homework

In order to support the work covered in class, and to ensure student success and independence, much of the homework will consist of practicing the gestures and memorizing the play, song and dance. It is important that your daughter/son review at home the material presented in class in preparation for tests throughout the year. Students will be given warning leading up to tests and assessments to ensure they have sufficient enough review time.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- identify the words associated with gestures covered;
- use French spontaneously, both with the teacher and with peers;
- pronounce words correctly;
- answer questions both orally and in writing;
- re-tell the play, both orally and in writing (later this year);
- perform the play;
- listen well;
- learn to refine their language skills as they progress through the program;
- co-operate with peers while working with a partner or in their play group;
- participate with enthusiasm;
- complete work on time;
- stay focused and productive in class.



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Français de base : 7 & 8

The AIM (Accelerated Integrated Method).

The French program that we are using this year for grades 7 and 8 is called *Jeunesse en action!* It is based upon the use of stories, drama and music to help students learn to develop oral and written fluency as quickly as possible. Specifically designed stories for middle years students that are written in the form of plays become the focus for a range of motivating language activities that help students develop confidence and competence in the language as they progress through each kit.

There is an equal emphasis on the development of both oral and written skills. Grammar is taught inductively, which means that students learn to acquire grammar in a way that resembles the way we learn our first language. Once the concept has been acquired, the students learn the grammar rule, so that it becomes meaningful to them and they learn to apply it during the editing process.

There is a strong emphasis on the development of literary skills in *Jeunesse en action!* and your daughter/son will have opportunities to write creatively in French throughout the program.

Another component of this program is the Gesture Approach, a technique that uses hand signs to help students learn and remember this important vocabulary found in the plays, songs and other activities.

There is an equal, strong emphasis on the development of all four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) through a program that meets the needs of all language learners and their learning styles. Activities are varied, so that students have the opportunity to work individually, in partners, in small groups and as a whole class.

In order to do well in French this year, your daughter/son will:

- participate actively in class, speaking only in French;
- learn the words introduced in class;
- keep corrections up to date;
- seek help when needed;
- work cooperatively with peers while working with a partner or in her/his play group;
- participate with enthusiasm;
- complete work on time, both in-class work, homework and preparation for tests;
- stay focused and productive in class.

Homework

It is important that your daughter/son review at home the material presented in class in preparation for tests throughout the year. Students will be expected to complete some

written work at home, in addition to reviewing the material covered.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- identify the words associated with gestures learned;
- pronounce words correctly;
- answer questions both orally and in writing;
- perform the play;
- listen well;
- use French spontaneously, both with the teacher and with peers;
- learn to identify grammar concepts and correct errors as they speak or write;
- retell the play, both orally and in writing;

There will be short tests throughout the year that will allow your daughter/son to receive ongoing feedback with respect to her/his progress and areas of strength and weakness. There will be a mid-term test as well as a longer end-of-term exam. Students will be given warning leading up to tests and assessments to ensure they have sufficient enough review time.

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