

Course Description

High School French 1A

H.O.M.E. Group 2018-19

Instructor: Madame Sarah Weiss Start Date: September 7, 2018
Email: weissfrench@gmail.com End Date: May 17, 2019
Phone: 586-883-1229 Class Times: Fridays 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Block B)

Cash Cost: Half due (\$160) at Meet the Teacher Night on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 & half due (\$160) on January 4, 2019.

SOARCE Cost: \$250 per semester paid through SOARCE, Madison Heights in November & March

Additional Supply fee: \$20 per student; not paid by Soarce. Will be used for in-class culture activities. Due on Meet the Teacher Night, August 21, 2018. All Materials are purchased on your own; see Textbook and Supplies Needed section below.

Instructor Biography

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Madame Sarah Weiss. I graduated in 2002 from the University of Dayton with two Bachelor degrees, in French and Education. While in college, I spent 6 weeks one summer in an immersion program in northern Quebec, Canada, where I lived with a family and took classes. I also spent my junior year in Avignon, France. I lived with a wonderful French family and took classes in French towards my degree. It was an amazing year full of learning and adventurous travel in Europe, especially France. I have loved the French language since my first class in high school but I fell even more in love with the French culture and language that year and became fluent enough to think and dream in French! After graduation in 2002, I couldn't wait to return to France so I became an English Language Assistant in Angers, France. I traveled to elementary schools every week and taught English for the academic year of 2002-2003. I also had plenty of time to travel and continue improving my language skills!

Then, in 2003, I returned to the United States and was accepted into the Lalanne Teaching program through the University of Dayton and AmeriCorps. I combined my love for service and French by teaching in an inner-city Catholic school in Detroit for two years (Dominican High School – now closed) and living in Christian community with other first and second year teachers teaching in other inner city Catholic schools. In the summers we all attended classes at the University of Dayton. In August of 2005, I graduated with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. From 2005 to 2010 I taught French at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills. I taught fifth through eighth grade French in the middle school for girls and a high school French 1 class. In 2010, my husband Rob and I were blessed by God with our twins, Andrew and Mary. I was a full-time wife and mother from 2010-2017. I loved spending that

time with my husband and children. Now that my children are in school full-time, I am able and happy to work part-time and share my gift of the French language and culture by teaching French. This will be my second year teaching French in the H.O.M.E. group. My family attends Faith Lutheran Church for worship and we are members of the church. I am also involved in Women's Ministry at Faith and am the Secretary of the Macomb County Mother's of Multiples Club. Besides speaking and teaching French, I love to be outside in the summer swimming, camping, biking, etc. I also love to cook, read, and spend time with my family and friends.

Course Description

- This class will be equivalent to half of a year of French 1, worth half a credit. The second half of the class will be offered in 2019-2020 (French 1b). This class provides the students with an introduction to the language and culture of the French-speaking world. The student must have attained the equivalent of a high school freshman (9th grade), in age. Exceptions may be made for very motivated 8th graders, upon approval of the instructor.

Course Content:

- Ability to speak, understand, read, write and spell French on a basic level, including conjugating verbs and other introductory grammar structures
 - Students will learn how to speak and write about: themselves and their family, order food and drink in a café, tell the date, time, and weather as a weather forecaster, discuss their likes and dislikes, discuss activities and sports (more topics may be taught if time allows)
- Culture project: each student will choose a topic of French/Francophone interest to research throughout the second semester and present at the end of the year

Skills & Topics

Unité 1: Faisons Connaissance (Getting Acquainted):

- Reasons why learning French is valuable; Basic introduction to culture/geography in France, French alphabet and numbers 1-1000; Greetings and introducing oneself, Talking about where you are from and your nationality, How to ask and answer how you are feeling/doing; Naming people and asking who is it?, Introducing your family, family vocabulary, asking a person's age. Grammar: accents, rules and tips for pronunciation, Tu vs. vous, masculine and feminine nouns, indefinite articles, definite articles, some of the possessive pronouns and different forms

Unité 2: La vie Courante (Everyday Life):

- Vocabulary for common café foods and drinks, how to express hunger and thirst; how to order food and drink, Culture on food in France, meals, restaurants, the Euro, French café tasting in class, How to ask and give the price of an item, How to tell time; Days of

the week, months of the year, telling the date How to talk about the weather and seasons. Grammar: Review indefinite articles, a/an, and the masculine/feminine versions for nouns, intonation differences in speaking French, the pronunciation of “r”

Unité 3: Qu'est-ce qu'on fait? (Daily activities):

- Expressing likes and dislikes, wishes, and inviting a friend to do an activity, Activities/sports vocabulary; Culture: sports and activities in France, Senegal. Grammar: the verb être (to be), asking yes/no questions with est-ce que, Negation, conjugation of –er verbs, using verb + infinitive, Question words, the verb faire (to do/make), faire expressions, inversion with questions; Other useful vocabulary words for conversation

Course Objectives/Goals

This course is designed for High School students in the HOME group and the objectives for the course are multifaceted:

- There will be **homework** every week that must be completed outside of class and returned the following week for grading and review. A homework outline will be sent home weekly with assignments listed. There will be some speaking assignments that students will have to complete at home as well and may be required to video/record themselves speaking. Some homework will be due by e-mail on other days of the week so that it can be graded before certain class periods and to save time in class.
- There will be a new list of **vocabulary** for each lesson. After the list is given, the columns to practice the new vocabulary will be due as an assignment. Flashcards can also be made and the words studied often until memorized. Mme Weiss has also created Quizlets for each lesson and there are flashcards as part of the online supplement to the textbook.
- There will be vocabulary **quizzes**, particularly in the beginning of the year. These will be administered in class. For each lesson, there will be a larger **test**. The listening and speaking parts of tests will be done during class time. The writing, reading, culture and grammar parts of tests will be done at home under the supervision of a parent. They are expected to return them the following class period.
- Students will be expected to **speak French** in class as much as possible. Learning a language's grammar is important, but so is learning to speak it. We will check homework together often and students are expected to give their answers to the homework either to the class or to a partner. Students are also expected to fully engage in speaking with other classmates during pair and group activities, skits, etc.
- There will be an end-of-the-year **project**, based on the student-chosen and teacher-approved topic of the Francophone world. Information will be given in February to begin working on this project, which is due in May. The students will present their projects to parents in May.

Textbook and Supplies Needed

Required Text: *Discovering French Today! Student Edition Level 1 Textbook* by Holt McDougal, Jean-Paul Valette and Rebecca M. Valette 2013. It will be the text we will use for **2 years of French** (2018-2019 and 2019-2020), the equivalent to 1 high school credit.

ISBN: 9780547871561) **Cost: \$93.90**

Additional required material: A 1 yr. subscription to two online supplement materials for the Discovering French text: Purchasing both will give you access to all the online supplements, including audio, video, interactive flashcards with audio, grammar, vocabulary, and reading practice, and more! Note: the entire textbook is included in this online supplement if your student prefers not to have a textbook. However, we do use the text in class so if you only purchase the online version, your student will need to bring an electronic device to class to access the textbook pages. Homework assignments will require the use of this online supplement.

ISBN #:9780547901893 for \$23.50 (Discovering French Today! Level 1 , 1 yr online student edition)

ISBN # 9780547938820 for \$14.65 (Discovering French Today! Level 1, 1 yr. online premium tab add-on)

How to order: Both the textbook and online supplements can be purchased through Bill Bower with Educare. I prefer you order this way so that all the students can be linked to me as the teacher for the online supplements. Please order by the beginning of August to be sure to receive your materials by our first class. Call or e-mail Bill Bower at 1-800-835-5105 or BillB@edu-care.net. You just need to give him the ISBN numbers and information listed below and my name as the teacher. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

9780547871561 DISC FRENCH SE LV1 \$93.90

9780547901893 DISC FRENCH OL SE LV1 1YR \$23.50

9780547938820 DISC FRENCH OL PREM LV1 1YR \$14.65

- We will also be learning French through games, projects, group work in class, the Internet, etc. In addition to the textbook, you will need the following materials:
 1. 1 inch binder, 5 tabs, loose-leaf paper, a 70 page notebook **(Organization is key to success!)**
 2. 1 pack of 4x6 note cards (optional – for flashcards)
 3. Red pen (or other color for checking work)
 4. French-English bilingual dictionary with at least 100,000 translations (Larousse or Collins preferred) (optional)
 5. Use of library and/or internet for research and daily homework
 6. Use of a computer and printer for papers
- You are expected to come to class weekly with these materials as well as a pen and pencil, and most importantly, a positive attitude and willingness to speak French!

Classroom Policies

- The best way to learn a foreign language is to practice speaking and studying EVERYDAY! Students should plan on spending a minimum of 30 minutes each weekday, outside of class, doing homework and studying for this class, as well as speaking.
- Cell phones should not be used during class, unless approved by the instructor.
- Please be punctual and attentive for the class period. Bring all the required materials.
- All homework assignments are due on the due date and are not accepted later unless you have an excused absence. In that case it is accepted the following class period only. Incomplete work is accepted for partial credit.
- If the student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for the missed assignment, weissfrench@gmail.com.
- If a quiz or a test is missed, arrangements must be made, within the week for the student to take it. **Please** exercise integrity and do not discuss the quizzes/test with students who have not completed them!
- Students should feel free to share with the instructor, ask questions, and seek assistance from the instructor whenever needed.
- Students should respect their parents and instructor and view them as working in conjunction to ensure student success in this class.

Evaluation and Grading

Grades will be determined by points and will be weighted as follows:

- A. Tests, Quizzes, Projects/Presentations: worth 50% of grade
- B. Homework – worth 25% of grade
 - a. Work is expected to be turned in on time. Parents will be notified if a pattern of late work occurs.
 - b. On some of the homework assignments I employ a check system in grading. My philosophy for this is based on the fact that I only see the students once a week and we check answers in class. Therefore, I use the check system to reward effort, encouraging students to complete the assignments. The check marks are converted to points and will be calculated into grades.

o= If the homework assignment is missing

√− If the homework assignment is only partially completed it will receive a check minus (equivalent to C).

√ If the assignment is completed but contains many mistakes or lack of effort, it will receive a check minus (equivalent to B).

√+ If the assignment is well done, it will receive a check plus (equivalent to A).

- D. Participation, worth 25%, includes:
 1. classroom participation in all activities
 2. required materials are brought to class weekly
 3. evidence of practice speaking French at home (will be explained in class)
 4. attitude, as well as paying attention (i.e. not distracting others or doing other work), arriving on time, being respectful of classroom rules and of each other

5. Students will receive 5 points for participation each week in class if they show evidence of completing numbers 1-4 above

Percent	Letter Grade
100-98	A +
97-93%	A
92-90%	A-
89-87%	B+
86-83%	B
82-80%	B-
79-77%	C+
76-73%	C
72-70%	C-
69-67%	D+
66-63%	D
62-60%	D-
59-0%	F

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to make changes at my discretion to the syllabus and/or schedule for the class, particularly due to time constraints.

The student and parent is asked to please sign the following form, acknowledging that you have read this syllabus, and return it to me by **Friday, September 7, 2018.**

Thank you for your cooperation. I'm looking forward to working with your son/daughter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Merci beaucoup!

Sarah E. Weiss

Mme. Weiss' French 1a- 2018-2019

1. Student: I, _____, understand the expectations and policies for Mme Weiss' class and will respect them at all times.

2. Parent/Guardian: I, _____, have read the expectations and policies for Mme Weiss' class and will help my son/daughter to understand and follow them.