

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FRENCH I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course in the fundamentals of the French language. As a foundation for other French courses, French I emphasizes oral and written skills, as well as serving as an introduction to the structure of language. The study of French increases the understanding of English vocabulary and structure. Vocabulary is presented in a cultural context to help students learn about France and French culture. The successful completion of French I in the eighth grade allows the student to enroll in French II in high school.

COURSE RATIONALE

The study of French I in Springfield Public Schools is designed to develop competence and self-confidence for living and working in today's global society. French I is taught to help students begin to communicate in French, to gain knowledge and understanding of their own culture and other cultures, to acquire information that connects with other disciplines, to develop insight into the relationship between language and culture, and to build a life-long interest in acquiring and maintaining proficiency in French.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

- 1. Communication: Students will communicate in French.**
 - a. Students will engage in conversation in present and implied future tenses, both in affirmative and negative, using appropriate word order. This involves recognition and some use but not mastery of regular **-er, -ir, -re** verbs, plus the irregular verbs **être, avoir, faire, aller, prendre, vouloir, pouvoir, dormir, sortir**. (1.6; CA3)
 - b. Students will respond appropriately to statements on a variety of everyday topics such as greetings, introductions, basic needs, family, shopping, sports, likes, and dislikes, etc. (1.5; CA6)
 - c. Students will present information on everyday topics using subject pronouns, and possessive and demonstrative adjectives. (2.1; CA6)

- 2. Cultures: Students will gain knowledge and understanding of French culture.**
 - a. Students will demonstrate understanding of French cultural practices and perspectives on such topics as cuisine and the educational system. (1.9; SS6)
 - b. Students will create products of Francophone culture such as menus, greeting cards, grade cards, school schedules, calendars, or holiday objects, such as *santons de Noël, Mardi Gras* masks, etc. (2.5; SS7)

- 3. Connections: Students will connect with other disciplines and acquire information using the French language.**
 - a. Students will locate major geographical features of France and neighboring countries. (1.4; SS5)
 - b. Students will use math functions in French with numbers up to 100 and understand the difference in calculations for Celsius and Fahrenheit temperatures. (1.6; M1)

- 4. Comparisons: Students will develop insight into the nature of language and culture.**
 - a. Students will compare and contrast French and English cognates, pronunciation and spelling (including accent marks). (1.6; CA1)
 - b. Students will demonstrate understanding of the cultural significance of differentiating between *tu* and *vous*. (1.6; CA7)

- 5. Communities: Students will participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.**
 - a. Students will demonstrate that they have shared French language and culture with family or friends. (1.10; SS6)
 - b. Students will demonstrate evidence of personal use of the language beyond the classroom. (i.e., listen to a French language CD, download a French song, view a French film or theatre production, read a French book in translation, consult a French website, build a model of the Eiffel Tower, etc.) (1.10; SS6)