

Course Description: French I Middle School

Having been blessed to be able to study French since the age of five, and having studied other languages in high school and college, I majored and minored in various foreign languages and graduated from Western Michigan University in 1981. I studied in France, traveled extensively in Europe, studied at the Freie Universitat Berlin after graduation from WMU, and I studied extensively in Belgium both before and while I lived there after I was married.



I taught French for over 30 years at Kalamazoo area private schools, at KAT, and privately for preschool through high school students. There was no published curriculum for the younger age groups, so I developed the complete, coordinated curriculum and created all the materials with which to teach it. I was also blessed to have been trained in Sonja Stewart's Children's Worship program, which I adapted to incorporate into my classes. I homeschooled my three children who are now all graduated.

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French I is separated into two separate classes of 85 minutes each, one for sixth through eighth grades and the other for ninth through twelfth grades. These classes focus on learning basic vocabulary in all the categories, expanding in-class conversation and enjoying various activities designed to create opportunities for the students to converse. The categories are designed to allow for an oral introduction to structured and well-defined grammar concepts. Moreover, I incorporate other areas of study such as science, art, geography, math and music into the curriculum with a study of the "Great Masters", areas of the world where French is spoken, and simple, already-mastered math and science concepts to cover a variety of learning modalities and intelligences.

I do not use English in class to "help", since it is confusing and not necessary. Each student receives a take-home DVD for daily vocabulary review; this documented daily review forms a significant part of the participation grade for this class.

Within in the context of cyclical themes, common phonetic combinations, stories, verb conjugations, tenses, adjectives, adverbs, and other basic linguistic structures are presented and practiced, preparatory to beginning to read and write.

FEES: Tuition is \$360 (includes building use fee, materials, and tutoring) for this full-year class, with a \$30.00 non-refundable deposit due at registration. \$150 is due the first day of class in September, and the remaining \$180 is due the first day of class in January.



French is the official and/or second official language in more than 40 countries world wide with over 300 million people speaking it.

French and English are the only two languages spoken on [all seven continents](#). French is the second most influential language in the world, having also been the international language of politics and business for several centuries.