

GENERAL INFORMATION

French at Ukiah High School

Mr. Porter

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The three guiding principles behind the procedures in this class are...

- Respect for the importance of quality education to all of our futures.
- Respect for the right of every student to learn without disruption.
- Respect for the duty of the teacher to teach as best he can.

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Learning a foreign language involves speaking, listening to, reading, and writing that language, but it also involves the study of the cultures of the language. We will do all five in French class. Foreign language learning is a steady, day-by-day experience. It requires diligence and a willingness to be patient. Because of the way human beings acquire language skills, studying a foreign language is a cumulative process. In other words, you build on top of previously-studied material to learn new material. It is therefore important for you to keep up with the rest of the class and to get extra help when you fall behind. Much of your French class will be conducted in French. You should become a part of the “French atmosphere” by trying to speak in French whenever possible while you are in the classroom. If you are actively engaged in learning (you do the written work, you pay attention in class, you participate by speaking in French), your efforts will be rewarded through your new ability to communicate in a foreign language.

NOTEBOOK REQUIREMENT AND DAILY CLASSROOM MATERIALS

You are required to keep an organized notebook containing paper, notes, handouts, homework, tests, vocabulary, and your French journal. The notebook may be a part of a larger binder that contains notes and materials from your other classes. French One and Two students should leave their own textbook copy at home, as they will be using a text from the classroom set while at school. You must bring your notebook and a pen to class every day, and Level Three and Four students should bring their books from home, as well. In order to encourage good organizational skills, students will be permitted to use their notebooks on final exams at the end of the first and second semesters. (All other tests will generally be closed book.)

HOMEWORK

You will have approximately 15-30 minutes of French homework each school night. Homework assignments are given to supplement and reinforce the

material that we study in class. **Failure to follow the guidelines below will result in no credit for an assignment:**

- Homework should always be turned in to the proper basket just **before the beginning of class** on the day that it is due.
- Homework must be properly headed with name, date and assignment title in the upper right-hand corner.
- Homework must be legible, written on white, lined binder paper and not crumpled or frayed.

TESTS

A test, quiz or essay will be given about once per week. Some tests and essays will be longer (such as unit tests) and, consequently, they will be worth two to four grades in the grade book.

DAILY ROUTINE AND JOURNALS

When you arrive to class, you should immediately turn in your homework to the correct wire box. Each class day begins with a warm-up activity usually involving writing on a given topic in French in your journal. Check on the board to see what the daily topic is. I will record your homework in the grade book during the journal-writing time, and we will usually go over the previous-night's assignment immediately after. The other thirty to fifty minutes of class will vary from day to day. Sometimes we will have a test, other times I will introduce new material, and still other times we will do practice and reinforcement activities.

GRADING POLICY

Your quarter and semester grades will be based upon your performance in this class as outlined below:

- 50%---written and oral tests, essays and quizzes
- 25%---homework
- 25%---oral proficiency and effort

At the end of each quarter, a computer grading program averages the above elements into your final grade through the following scale:

| | |
|----|-----|
| A | 93% |
| A- | 90% |
| B+ | 87% |
| B | 83% |
| B- | 80% |
| C+ | 77% |
| C | 73% |
| C- | 70% |

| | |
|----|-----|
| D+ | 67% |
| D | 63% |
| D- | 60% |
| F | 0% |

When you receive a letter grade for an assignment, test, quiz, essay, oral presentation, etc., the computer program assigns the following percentage values for that grade:

| | |
|----|-------|
| A | 100% |
| A- | 91.5% |
| B+ | 88.5% |
| B | 85% |
| B- | 81.5% |
| C+ | 78.5% |
| C | 75% |
| C- | 71.5% |
| D+ | 68.5% |
| D | 65% |
| D- | 61.5% |
| F | 30% |

Most homework assignments will receive a grade of one point per completed exercise. If, for example, your assignment is to complete exercises A through D on pages 19 and 20, and you complete A through C, you will receive three points out of a possible four.

The oral proficiency and effort element of your grade is subjective and will be based on regular attendance, your use of French in class, your pronunciation and my impression of how hard you are trying. To help in assuring that you have ample opportunity to speak in French, I will use 5" by 8" cards with student names on them and assign questions based upon whose name randomly comes up in the card deck for your class. Each time that you respond correctly, I will mark one point on your card.

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, TARDINESS AND MAKE-UP WORK

Regular and prompt attendance is a crucial element in this class. Oral practice is important in learning the language, and numerous absences will necessarily affect your grade. Should you choose not to attend, you are responsible for all work assigned during your absence. Homework will be due within two days of your return to class. Make-up tests and quizzes must be taken within one week after your absence, and such make-up must be scheduled with the teacher. Make-up work will not be permitted for students who are truant. Long term assignments and projects will not be accepted beyond the due-date. You must speak to me to make special arrangements for extended absences. As for

tardiness, you are allowed to arrive a couple of minutes late without an excuse once per quarter. If you arrive late and do not have a signed excuse from a school employee, do not interrupt class because of your failure to arrive on time. Simply fill out the tardy slip allotted for that quarter and turn it in to me. Lunch passes will be revoked for two weeks for those who are tardy a second time in a quarter. The alternative penalty for those without lunch passes is an after-school detention. The same conditions for tardy passes will be applied for bathroom passes: You are allowed one free per quarter, the second results in a two-week lunch pass revocation or after school detention.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

I expect students to demonstrate respect for one another and for the learning environment. Bigoted or sexist comments, harassment, cheating, unruly behavior that interrupts the learning of others or damage to school property or the property of others will not be tolerated in this class. Problem behavior may result in assignment of detentions, revocation of lunch passes, suspension to "time-out", telephone calls to parents, parent conferences, or expulsion from class.