

Bienvenue! It's that time of year again...Welcome back!
September 2017

About Me:

Je m'appelle Madame Ciotti. My name is Mrs. Ciotti, and I will be delivering the French program (also referred to as FSL or Core French) once again this year at St. Bernard's School. This year, I will be teaching French to the primary and junior divisions (grade 1 to grade 5/6). I have been teaching French for the past eleven years, and I have been fortunate to have spent the latter of these seven years here at St. Bernard's School. I have been immersed in French culture in various parts of the world including Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal, Trois Pistoles, Paris, Nice and the French Riviera and Geneva.

I am very excited to be working with your child this year. My passion and enthusiasm for French and the French culture can be exhibited through my teaching. I can ensure that we will have a successful academic year if we work together. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school or write a note in your child's agenda. I look forward to learning and working together.

Primary French

We are very excited to continue to offer French as a Second Language to Grades 1-3 after a successful fourth year of the program. The focus will continue to be on Oral Language Acquisition. The program has expanded to include additional schools once again this year. The majority of our schools now offer the primary French program. ☺

AIM Program

Students who are actively engaged are better learners. In the primary grades, the use of hand-gestures help students learn new words in French. I plan to incorporate as many actions and hand-gestures as possible in all grades to help students make connections to new vocabulary.

The French Curriculum

The French as a Second Language Curriculum was revised in 2014 for the junior and intermediate grades (grades 4-8). There is a strong emphasis on oral language which has been divided into listening and speaking. For this reason, the instruction in the classroom will be French. Reading and writing strands are still reported on also.

The focus for lessons will continue to be on authentic, real-life situations and conversations. For example, ordering food in a restaurant, being able to give and understand directions in French and presenting one's self, so that your child may be able to communicate in a real-life French setting.

The curriculum also includes a cultural component. Students will continue to learn about aspects of culture in diverse French-speaking communities and other communities around the world specific to their grade level.

Computers and technology

Computers and technology will continue to be incorporated in the French program for each grade on a weekly basis. I look forward to sharing new ideas and programs learned over the past few summers through professional development opportunities in Quebec City and Ottawa.

Classroom Expectations

Students are to have the following items in order to be prepared for French class. The following items are the responsibility of the student to bring in for the first day of school:

-French-English dictionary is recommended for students in grades 4 and 5/6. The school has purchased a class set, however, it may be a good idea for students to have their own for quick reference when coming across new vocabulary as there will not be a French classroom where dictionaries will be as accessible for student use this year.

-pencil and pencil crayons (for primary grades 1, 1/2 and 3).

-headphones- you may use the same pair as your homeroom class. Headphones will be used for listening exercises and activities in the computer lab on a weekly basis.

**please note- duotangs will be supplied by the school this year and have been ordered to be colour-coded according to grade level.

Work is to be kept neat and organized. Handouts need to be fastened properly into duotangs when they are received and kept in chronological order.

If a student does not understand the homework, he or she must see me before class begins. If homework is incomplete, there may be an opportunity to complete it during the student's own time, at recess. Homework will be rare in French class as I try to ensure there is adequate class time for projects (junior grades only) so that I am able to help if there are any questions. I strongly emphasize that class work in French be completed during class time. On occasion, a student may be working on a project if they have not used the allotted class time to complete their work.

Drink and washroom breaks: one male and one female may go to the washroom at a time. Please raise your hand and ask for permission in French.

To begin:

The following expectations will be covered for the months of September and October in French:

Grades 1 and 1/2 will start off with the basics such as greetings and salutations, classroom objects, activity verbs, numbers, presenting oneself, alphabet, days of the week, months of the year and weather conditions.

Grade 3 will review primary vocabulary: classroom objects, rooms in the school, family, colours, days, months, seasons, numbers and alphabet.
New vocabulary: clothing while reviewing colours, family, numbers and seasons.

Grades 4 and 5/6 will review previously learned vocabulary and participate in a series of oral activities which will lead to a final task of presenting one's self entitled "Je me presente".

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Ciotti
FSL Teacher, St. Bernard of Clairvaux School