



**Pine Valley Middle School
2009-2010 * French 1A**

Teacher: Lisa Krummies
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Homework & Grades: www.pvms.schoolloop.com
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Text: *Discovering French Nouveau!* by Jean-Paul Valette and Rebecca Valette. Textbooks must be covered. Fees will be assessed for damaged or lost books.

Course Description

This is the first year of a two-year program at Pine Valley Middle School and serves to build a solid foundation for future study of the French language.

We will be interacting in French, using our language skills in scenarios that represent everyday life in Francophone countries. We will be constantly building upon prior knowledge through the use of singing, writing, drawing, acting, eating, playing games, reading, and of course, learning. We will be memorizing vocabulary and verbs (and the conjugation of those verbs) and we will often be working in groups and partnerships to help develop new relationships and learn to effectively communicate in French in any given social setting.

Class Rules

- BE RESPECTFUL
- Be on time – In your assigned seat, ready to work when the bell rings. Failure to comply will result in a tardy!
- Bring materials to class everyday. This includes your binder (or a section of a binder) with four dividers, paper, a pencil, and a pen (no red ink), your book (covered), your homework, and a positive attitude. You will also need index cards from time to time as we create our flashcards.
- Never bring to class: food, drinks, chewing gum, or electronics (cell phones, PDAs, iPods, etc. will be confiscated on sight!)
- No hats, sunglasses, or hoods

These class rules are derived from two basic rights:

- Everyone has a right to be respected
- No one has the right to interfere with learning

Consequences

If you break the rules, if you are disruptive, or if you are disrespectful, one or more of the following steps will be taken to help get you back on track. The step taken will depend on the nature of the infraction.

Possibilities include: a verbal warning, a teacher/student conference, a behavior contract, a phone call home, detention, Saturday school, removal from the class, referral to an administrator.

Tardy Policy

Tardy students must sign in on the Tardy List posted inside the classroom door upon entering the room.

1st Tardy: Warning

2nd Tardy: Litter pick-up

3rd Tardy: Litter pick-up and parent notification

4th Tardy: Referral to office

Grading

Grades are weighted according to the following categories:

30% = Exams and quizzes

20% = Oral work

30% = Homework and projects

20% = Cooperation

Oral work includes oral presentations, group work, and oral comprehension work. French is a tool of communication and is meant to be spoken as well as written. Oral participation on a daily basis will be extremely important and will help me understand how students are doing, what they might need help with, and if the class is ready to move on to a new lesson.

Homework and projects: Use of Binder Reminders is required to record homework and other assignments, including upcoming tests. Students should expect homework each school night. All assignments must be completed and will be checked at the beginning of the following class period. Written work may not be done in red ink. Late or incomplete work will not receive full credit. If you are absent you MUST turn in missed assignments and make up tests within three days of your return. Please see me to make an appointment for a make-up test before or after school. A student who does not complete homework assignments will not be successful in this class.

*Independent Study Contracts: Students requesting Independent Study Contracts should contact the school office at least five full days in advance of their planned absence.

Cooperation includes daily warm-up activities, class participation, checks of assignment tracking sheets, and checks for necessary materials.

Letter grades are assigned based on the total number of points received out of the total number points possible and weighted according to the above categories.

A = 91% and above, B = 78 – 90%, C = 68 – 77%, D = 60 – 67%, F = 59% and below. Please note that an “A” starts at 91% and a “B” starts at 78%.

Anything that will receive a grade will be announced as such when it is assigned. Grades can be checked at anytime via the internet.

There will be no surprises.

Additional Information:

Students are eligible for high-school credit if they successfully complete French 1A and 1B, with a B- or above. Therefore, students **must maintain a B- average in this class.**

I am available to give extra help before or after school (by previous arrangement), as well as before or after class. Of course, students are always encouraged to ask questions during class if something is unclear.

Grades will be posted online at www.pvms.schoolloop.com and updated weekly. Students should keep this sheet in their binder for the duration of the school year. Please sign and return the accompanying form.

Note to parents:

Parents, even if you do not know any French, please check that your student is doing his/her homework and studying. All students have the potential to succeed but they must exercise self-discipline and good study habits. Please hold your student accountable to do his/her work. This is essential. Thank you for your support.

If you ever have any questions or concerns and wish to speak to me personally, you can call and leave a message on my voicemail, or you can contact me via email. Please leave your name and your phone number or email address where I can reach you, preferably during the school day. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Closing remarks

The objective of this class is to bring the student from his/her current level of fluency in French to a greater level of fluency by the end of the year. Success in reaching this objective is entirely dependant upon the student's efforts to work toward that objective. I am committed to provide instruction and learning activities. Students, please commit yourselves to listen to instructions, follow class rules, do your work, and try your hardest. Parents, please help your student live up to their commitment. Together we will have a great year.

Thank you,
Ms. Krummes



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Student and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

We have read and understand the Pine Valley Middle School French 1A Course Description and Requirements.

Print Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Print Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Please provide the following information. If needed for any reason, it will be used to contact you as quickly as possible.

| |
|--|
| Name: |
| Home Phone: |
| Work Phone: |
| Cell Phone: |
| Email: |
| I prefer to be contacted via (please check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone |

| |
|--|
| Name: |
| Home Phone: |
| Work Phone: |
| Cell Phone: |
| Email: |
| I prefer to be contacted via (please check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone |