

AP French Language and Culture

What's this class all about?

"Language is not a genetic gift, it is a social gift. Learning a new language is becoming a member of the club – the community of speakers of that language." (Frank Smith)

The AP French class is about refining all the four skills students have been developing since their first year of French in Middle School so that they can develop strong communication skills in the target language in real-life situations. Through their study of the language, students get access to the richness of the cultural products, perspectives and practices of the Francophone world and consequently become lifelong members of the “community of speakers of the French language”.

What kind of work can I expect in this class?

FRENCH IMMERSION

- To offer students a French immersion experience, this class is conducted exclusively in French. Students are also expected to interact with their classmates and their teacher in French during class.

THEMES

- Only authentic materials will be selected to explore the following six required course themes:
 - *Contemporary Life*
 - *Families and Communities*
 - *Global Challenges*
 - *Science and Technology*
 - *Personal and Public Identities*
 - *Beauty and Aesthetics*

READING AND LISTENING (Interpretive Mode)

- Students read/or listen, analyse and interpret a variety of authentic written or audio resources (literature, news articles, websites, essays, songs, movie excerpts, etc.) from the Francophone world.

WRITING AND SPEAKING (Interpersonal and Presentational Mode)

- Students participate in debates about various issues stemming from the thematic units studied, perform improvised “skits” or participate in pre-planned conversation. They reply to email correspondence using standard French. (Interpersonal Mode)
- Students respond in writing or record orally responses to various prompts relating to the unit theme. They prepare a variety of shorter multimedia presentations on Francophone culture and countries that they present orally to the class. (Presentational Mode)

What will I be expected to complete for summer work?

The summer work will help students stay current with their acquired level of French. Depending on the teacher, it might slightly change, but they can expect:

- some articles to read, podcasts to listen and summarize, journal entries, written responses to some prompts, short oral presentations to record.

What is the format of this AP Exam?

- Section I: Multiple Choice (65 questions; 1 hour and 35 minutes)
- Section II: Free Response (4 prompts; 1 hour and 30 minutes)
 - Task 1: read and reply to an email
 - Task 2: write an argumentative essay
 - Task 3: participate in a simulated short conversation
 - Task 4: present a 2-minute cultural comparison