

CURRICULUM – FRENCH

The Saint Joseph Regional School French Program offers an introduction to the French language and Francophone Culture to students in grades 5 through 8. Technology resources provide practice with language skills and cultural experience of French-speaking countries and regions. Students present the results of their research in oral presentations, PowerPoint presentations, art projects, brochures, and illustrated stories.

In grades 5 and 6, emphasis is on listening and speaking skills, with extensive use of songs, traditional rhymes and stories. Basic language concepts and functions are presented through thematic content areas. Topics include school, family, birthdays, weather, outdoor activities, food, and endangered species. The program in grades 5 and 6 introduces Canadian geography and culture, including holidays, famous Canadians, and Quebec traditions and activities.

Students in grades 7 and 8 complete a high-school level French I course. While a high school text is used, the two-year course allows for extensive and varied activities, appealing to all learning styles. Multiple intelligences are implemented through paired and group interviews and surveys, work with culturally authentic documents and objects, physical response activities, music, and audiovisual programs. Students may begin with French II in high school, with the possibility of receiving credit for their French I course, upon successful completion of French II. Students from St. Joseph School have excelled in French programs in area public and private high schools, often continuing their study to an advanced level, and participating in term abroad and exchange programs.

National French Week

National French Week is celebrated in November with trivia contests, popular music, student-taught French mini-lessons in the younger classes, and a French family dinner.

French Family Dinner

The French dinner has become a very successful fund-raiser for the biennial seventh and eighth grade trip to Quebec, begun in 2000. The trip offers the experience of a contemporary French-speaking culture. Students participate in a fact-finding mission in Old Quebec, receiving an on-site education in the history and traditions of one of the earliest settlements in North America. They experience a traditional evening of food, music and dance at a sugar house, and visit a Huron village and the pilgrimage shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré.