



Main Line Classical Academy

## LOWER SCHOOL : FRENCH CURRICULUM

### KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE

In kindergarten, students are introduced to the French language in almost complete immersion to develop first their listening and speaking skills so they can communicate more effectively. In addition to working a lot on acquiring these class habits in French, students start following characters through the Symtalk method which is all about visual language learning: a symbol method where each image represents a word. The symbols represent all parts of speech and are introduced and practiced in the context of a complete sentence.

Writing and spelling these words begin in the last trimester of kindergarten but are really developed from first through third grade with sentences becoming longer and more complex.

Finally from kindergarten through third grade, students memorize traditional French children's songs as well as fables and other types of poems.

### FOURTH GRADE

The goal of the French class is to develop the student's French language skills through different key learning processes. The students read and study the language techniques and themes of two short stories over the course of the year. We begin the year with *Le Mystère de St Péray* of Annie Coutelle. Every week, we learn or review a specific grammar lesson using the grammar manual, *Exercices de Grammaire A1*. Students are required to memorize and recite certain poems regularly. Special attention is given to their listening and speaking skills through different recordings, specifically connected to their reading assignments.

### FIFTH GRADE

The goal of the French class is to develop the students' French language skills through different key learning processes. The students read and study the language techniques and themes of a full novel throughout the year. *Histoire d'une Revanche* is an abridged version of the well-known novel of Alexandre Dumas, *Le Comte de Monte Cristo*. The study of the novel is an opportunity to discover the complexity of French society during the period after the Revolution. The students learn important writing techniques, as well as spelling and grammar. In addition, they are required to memorize and recite certain poems and songs regularly, developing their vocabulary and pronunciation.

### SIXTH GRADE

The goal of the French class is to develop the students French language skills through different key learning processes. The students read and study the language techniques and themes of two full novels over the course of the year. From September to January, they read a simplified version of the famous novel by Jules Verne, *Vingt Mille Lieues sous les Mers*. In addition, they are asked to select (from a specific collection), read, and present to the class a number of



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different short stories throughout the year. They continue to expand their writing techniques, and learn new vocabulary, spelling and grammar rules. Every week, we learn or review a specific grammar lesson using the grammar manual, *Exercices de Grammaire B1*. They are required to memorize and recite certain poems regularly. Special attention is given to their listening skills through different recordings, specifically connected to the novels they will be reading.