Français Ab Initio A est à vous!

Class Expectations and Guidelines for French AB-A

Madame Jennifer L. Johnston Kerns (Madame JJK!)

866 Vocational Building, Grimsley High School

[johnstj3@gcsnc.com](mailto:johnstj3@gcsnc.com)

**General information:**

In French, you will be acquiring extensive vocabulary, learning verb usage, learning sentence structure, honing your communication skills, and learning about the various francophone cultures. You will be seeing, hearing, speaking and writing French. ***It is very important to use French in class every day, all the time.*** You may not always say or write everything correctly, but remember, we all still make mistakes in our primary language. Sometimes, the willingness to try is more important than accuracy. Since ultimately the goal in studying any language is to be able to communicate with others and be understood, perfection is not the ultimate goal, comprehensibility is.

We will be using the textbooks *Allez, viens! 1 and 2,* and other resources throughout the year. Each student will be issued their own copy of the book, **which they are expected to bring with them to class every day. There will be book checks at my discretion, ESPECIALLY if students are challenging this rule**.

Course Overview and Objectives

In French Ab Initio A, students will move at an accelerated pace through French 1 and half of French 2 curriculum and expand upon their knowledge of spoken and written French. The focus of French Ab Initio A, as is the focus of all world language classes, will be on listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in standard French. Students will be expected to communicate in French 95% and more in French in the classroom.

Students will develop knowledge of French vocabulary, sentences, and expressions appropriate for their experiences. They will learn about French accents, pronunciation, culture, and how to speak and write in the present and past tenses.

This course’s main goal is to prepare IB students for the rigors of higher level French. Some students take Ab Initio A because they have prior experience in French or because they desire to take AP French. No matter what reason you have for taking AB-A this is an advanced course and I have high expectations, both academic and behavioral, for Ab Initio A students.

Student Arrivals

It is important to maximize the amount of time that we have in class every day. Therefore, students are expected to arrive to class quickly, turn in any homework assignments, get out all materials, stow backpacks under desks, and start the bell work activity. It is my expectation that all of this is to be done **before the tardy bell** rings. I know that some students must travel long distances between classes, but in addition to the academic aspects of high school, time management and working within given time restrictions are also important.

**PLEASE** sharpen pencils, use the restroom, and get water *BEFORE* sitting down in class. You will **NOT** be allowed to do so after the bell rings. If you come and ask me to use the bathroom and then arrive in class after the bell, I will mark you tardy and you will follow the consequence guidelines. I need YOU in class, not just your book bag!

***Please note the Grimsley tardy policy I have copied below:***

**Tardy Policy**

A student is considered tardy to class if he/she is not in his/her assigned location when the tardy bell rings. If a student is late to school and has a written excuse from a parent, the student must first come to the attendance office to get a pass to class.

If a student arrives late to school **without** a note but it is within ten minutes after the final bell rings, the student should report directly to class.

If the student arrives to school ten minutes **after** after the final bell rings **without** a note, they **must** report to the attendance office.

Random tardy sweeps will occur throughout the year to encourage students to be on time for all classes.

1st tardy – teacher warning and parent contact

2nd tardy – teacher-given consequence and parent contact

3rd tardy – teacher-given consequence and parent contact

4th and beyond – administrative referral and parent contact

\*The tardy count restarts each quarter.

\*\*Students arriving to class more than ten minutes late without an excused note can be considered **skipping** and subject to disciplinary action.

**Madame Johnston Kerns’ TEACHER CONSEQUENCES for TARDY include**:

1st offense = warning and parent contact-tardy slip to be signed by parent and returned next day

2nd offense = 20 minute after or before school detention (no electronics!) and parent contact

3rd offense = full period lunch detention in Room 100 and parent contact

4th offense = administrative referral and parent contact

For each after school detention you will have your parent sign a form saying they understand the date and time of your detention. If you do not return your tardy slip signed you will move on to the next offense level and/or detention. If you do NOT fulfill your after school detention you will move to the next offense level and if you make it to the 4th offense level you will have an automatic administrative referral and parent contact.

Student Bathroom Breaks

All students have 6 minutes to arrive in class on time. **UNLESS** you have a **DOCUMENTED** medical condition, which I have already discussed with you and your family, you should NOT leave the classroom for bathroom breaks during instructional time.

**ALL** students leaving for the bathroom **MUST** sign out with the date and time and SIGN back in when they return. BATHROOM/WATER FOUNTAIN passes will be issued, 4 per quarter, to each student. Use these wisely! Students must fill out the pass and get it signed before leaving. Do NOT ask during instructional time unless it is a HUGE emergency.

Student Supplies

All students are expected to bring all **required materials** to class **every day**. For my class, you must have **YOUR TEXTBOOK** and a **sewn/marble** **composition book (will be kept in class), envelope (also kept in class), paper, pen or pencil, and a two-pocket folder (prongs, cheap ok) which will travel back and forth from home**. Please have a French-English dictionary available at home or arrange for dictionary use in the media center. You may like using **WordReference.com** as an online dictionary. Google Translate is **NOT** a viable resource and ANY work turned in using Google Translate will receive an automatic **zero**.

Student Preparation

There is **homework** every day! Whether there is a specific written assignment, project, or presentation, it is expected that you will also spend some time every day outside of class reviewing French; even just 10 minutes a night can be extremely helpful. The purpose of homework is to practice and synthesize what we have been working on in class. Failure to do your homework or turning in someone else’s effort instead of yours will ultimately impede your knowledge of French, and impact your grade in several ways.

As stated above, all homework should be placed on the front table as you enter the class. Homework assignments checked in class and returned the same day will ***not* be accepted late**. Before turning in any assignment, make sure that you have written on it: your name, class, the date, and the page and activity numbers or the title of the assignment. **If you are absent on the day that an assignment is *due*, you will be expected to turn it in upon your return to class-that day**. Any time that you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Assignments, in the measure possible, will be posted to my teacher webpage (in Staff Directory of the main Grimsley webpage) or to remind.com.

**LATE WORK**: Late work will be accepted. **HOWEVER** you lose 15 points for the first late day, 10 for the second, and 10 for the third. After three days, the highest grade POSSIBLE will be a 60%. (Please bear in mind that that is the highest ***possible****.* The grade may go down based on work quality.) **NO late work** will be accepted more than 10 days after it is collected.

Testing, Assessments, and Tutorials

**Tests and other major assessments will take place on Wednesdays.** Quizzes and other smaller proficiency assessments may take place at any time. Regular **tutorials** will be on ***Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00-4:45pm.***

If you are absent for an assessment, you must come in on the next tutorial opportunity to make it up. Please talk to me about making an appointment.

Grimsley policy states that you have **3 days upon returning to make up assessments**. If you have been in class every day during a unit except for the day before the test, you will still be expected to take it. **YOU** are responsible for making up the tests and quizzes and scheduling the time to do so.

**In class there will be group activities**. I reserve the right to assign partners/groups for these assignments or to allow you to determine your own groups. There will also be a seating chart, which will change regularly. Be energized and welcoming!

Student Electronic Devices (includes headphones not connected to a device)

There will be times in class when students will be allowed to use their **cell phones** or other computing devices for instruction-based activities. **However**, if any student is caught using their phone for non-instructional purposes, I will follow the procedures outlined in the Grimsley Electronics Policy. This policy is copied below for your information:

**Student Electronics Policy**

Classroom instruction is paramount at GHS and must be free of distractions. Therefore, electronic devices (IPODS, MP3 Players, phones, etc.) will not be displayed or utilized during class time unless they are incorporated by the teacher into the daily instructional plan. If used as intended and appropriately students may use electronic devices before 9:00 am, after 4:00 pm (before and after school), during lunch, and during class changes.

At no time should electronic devices become a distraction for students. The GCS Student Handbook clearly outlines the acceptable use policy for electronic devices, and this policy applies to the personal use of such devices by students.

**Any violation of the GCS policy (such as taking unauthorized photographs, recording and / or posting inappropriate materials, cyber-bullying and harassment, etc.) will result in immediate disciplinary action.**

**Students are not allowed to charge their cell phones in classrooms, gyms or hallways**. A “charging bar” is available in the cafeteria for students who need to charge their devices during their assigned lunch. Students **should not** leave their devices unattended while using the “charging bar”.

Within the classroom setting, each teacher will clearly explain his or her policy regarding electronics to students on the first day of class.  Students who violate the teacher’s policy will be sent to SI and assigned the appropriate consequence.

**\*[Please note: in my class you get ONE warning and then get sent to Room 100. There are NO second or third chances with this policy and we will follow this Grimsley policy to the letter. The definition of devices includes headphones that a student has on his or her head (even ones that are not plugged into a device) as well as Nintendo DS, music players, and iPods.]\***

**Students who bring electronic items to school do so at their own risk.  The school will take no responsibility for these items while students are on campus or on school-sponsored events.**

**Course content and grading**

Each quarter’s grade will be calculated as follows:

Grading Scale (Guilford County)

Reading Tasks – 20% A 90-100

Oral/Speaking Tasks- 20% B 80-89

Writing Tasks- 20% C 70-79

Listening Tasks - 20% D 60-69 Integrated Tasks\* 20% F 0-59

(\*Integrated tasks include any assessment that uses more than one proficiency, vocabulary/grammar, and folder and notebook checks.)

I use a participation card system in which students earn a predetermined number of cards for an oral/speaking grade that will be recorded weekly.

There will be a **final exam**, which will count for **20%** of the final grade. Each semester is worth 40%.

I encourage all parents/guardians to contact me with any questions throughout the year.

**Madame JJK’s BIG THREE RULES:**

1- Communicate with kind words and kind actions. ****

2- Do not interfere with someone else’s learning. Or your own! 

3- Be on time! Do not miss valuable instruction by being late. 

Everything falls into place if we follow these!

**Expected behaviors and Procedures**

1) Put your homework on the table in the front of the room before the bell rings. Do this BEFORE stowing your backpack.

2) Be in your seat and **quiet** by the time the bell rings and start your bell work activity.

3) Be **respectful** to everyone and to the contents of our classroom. ALL language used by everyone will be respectful and mindful of basic human decency and dignity. My desk, closets, and bookshelves

are OFF LIMITS unless I ask you to touch them. **NO sitting on desks**. This is disrespectful, unsanitary, and considered rude in French-speaking countries.

4) Come to class with **all** required materials.

5) Participate, and do it in French.

6) Follow the Grimsley Honor Code.

7) Do your best.

8) **Madame’s personal pet peeves**:

•NO CREATING BODY ART in my classroom – do NOT write on yourself or your friends in my class with any writing instrument EVER. I will take your writing instrument and contact your parents. Repeat offenders WILL be sent to administrative referral. You should be working and communicating at all times in French, not drawing on one another.

•NO HEADGEAR of any kind, except those worn for documented religious purposes. NO HATS, SCARVES, HANDKERCHIEFS, Krispy Kreme paper fun hats EVER, unless we are having a cultural discussion about French headgear and I have given you permission to dress in the hats/berets/scarves, etc. This is a Grimsley policy, but one that I am very passionate about.

•**NO** gum, candy, mints, food, or drinks are allowed in the classroom unless we have a planned lesson around food. Finish your breakfast, lunch, or between-class-snack before arriving. You are allowed to have a bottle of plain water in class. No other beverages are permitted. Do **not** ask to go to the water fountain.

•Our class size (and the small size of our classroom) means that movement may be limited in class. Excessive movement is disruptive. Please follow my procedures for tissue-getting, hand sanitizing, and pencil-sharpening, which limit the need to get up out of your seat. Do NOT sit on the desk tables. No moving during instructional time.

**\*\*Anyone caught doing work for another class or teacher instead of my work will have that work confiscated and the teacher and your parent/guardian contacted.\*\***

Follow all the rules in the Guilford County Schools Student Handbook and the Grimsley High School Student Handbook. Do not disrupt the education of yourself or your classmates. Follow the Grimsley Honor Code and do your own work honestly and with integrity. Do not use electronic or online translators, native speakers, or students in higher-level French classes to do your work for you. Most of the time, I will be able to tell that you have done this.

**Violations** of these expectations and rules will result in the following consequences:

1st – Warning/Teacher Documentation of the Violation

2nd – Parent/Guardian Contact

3rd – After School Detention

4th – Office Referral/Removal from Class

(\*There may be the rare instance when one or more consequence must be skipped over due to the severity of the offense.)

\*Please SIGN, and have your PARENTS or GUARDIANS sign the signature sheet (separate sheet) and video/photo consent form and return them to me as soon as possible, but no later than FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018.

\*Place this syllabus into your pronged folder. You will receive points toward your grade based on the presence of this syllabus in your folder. The syllabus will remain on my website all year.

August 27, 2018 Français Ab Initio A

Dear Parent and Student:

Bonjour! I am very excited about teaching your son/daughter French this year!

It is an honor and a privilege to be here at Grimsley High School for another year of high school teaching.

Learning any language is an important skill for the 21st century. Our class will be conducted in a manner that provides students with real-world situations and experiences that build communication skills in French in the areas of listening, reading, writing, and speaking. I look forward to an amazing and productive year! Please feel free to contact me either by email: [johnstj3@gcsnc.com](mailto:johnstj3@gcsnc.com), or by telephone: (336) 370-8180. ~Madame JJK

\*Students - Please sign below that you have read and are in agreement with the course guidelines and classroom expectations for Madame Johnston Kerns’ French class and return it to class by **FRIDAY, August 31, 2018**. The course guidelines and expectations should stay in your son/daughter’s French folder for the rest of the year and a copy will be posted on my teacher website, which can be found on the Grimsley main webpage, under Staff Directory.

I, , (*print student name*) have read and understand all the expectations for French class this year. I will uphold the Grimsley Honor Code and follow the required behavior outlined in the syllabus.

(*student signature)* (date)

\*Parents, please sign below:

I have read and understand the expectations for my child in this French course.

(*parent/guardian printed name)*

(*parent/guardian signature*) (date)

**Photo/Video/Audio/Work Sample Consent:**

I would like to document your student’s learning this year by taking pictures of students working, creating short videos of your students in action (either during instruction or during presentations), podcasts, samples of student work, etc. I would like to ask your permission to use such items to post on my professional website, in my professional portfolio, and sometimes as examples when leading professional development for other teachers. I will **NOT** post your student’s last name with their work, pictures, audio, or videos to protect their identity. Please check the boxes below as appropriate and then sign below:

1. I give consent for Madame Johnston Kerns to post pictures/video/podcast/work samples □ Yes □ No

of my student in class on the teacher webpage.

1. I give consent for Madame Johnston Kerns to use pictures/video/podcasts/work samples □ Yes □ No

of my student in her professional portfolio.

1. I give consent for Madame Johnston Kerns to use pictures/video/podcasts/work samples of my

student in professional development. I understand my child’s name will not be used at any time. □ Yes □ No

*print student’s full name* *parent/guardian signature/date*