

WATERSHED SCHOOL FRENCH PROGRAM 2009 / 2010
Mme. Robinson
9/9/09

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you as the year progresses. There will be a curriculum for this class which I will provide on Friday, after I've had a chance to assess where you all are and what your interests are.

My goals for teaching this class are threefold and I am depending on your feedback to help me reach those goals.

- The Content Must Be Comprehensible. I will be speaking mostly in French. My goal is to speak naturally but slowly enough for you all to understand, to provide enough cues so that you understand, and to include just enough new vocabulary each day to challenge you without overwhelming you.
- The Content Must Be Relevant. There are core words in every language which are the key to most communication. We will focus on these core words and basic sentence structures. In addition, there are the words you need to communicate what is important to you. My goal is to discover what is important to you and to incorporate this vocabulary into our lesson.
- The Class Must Be Interesting. If what is taught is comprehensible, relevant, and also interesting you will remember it better.

PARLONS FRANCAIS ENSEMBLE!

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Draft French Classroom Expectations

I will be using a teaching method I have never used before in a classroom setting. It is based on the same basic principals my husband and I used when we taught our own children to speak French. We spoke French to them just as your parents spoke English to you. We read them stories in French, played games, and sang songs. When they were ready to read, they could read in French as easily as they could read in English. They used the grammar appropriately with minimal explanation on our part. The one difficulty we had with them was making them respond to us in French while everyone else around them was speaking English. When they started school, they became more and more self conscious about speaking French with us and they never learned to write properly. You have to actively use a language to truly learn. It does not have to be perfect, just comprehensible. Don't worry, you will improve with practice.

The method I will be using is called TPRS. I'm only just learning how to apply this method myself. There is a lot of information about it on the internet and I encourage you all to check it out for yourself. In fact, my first assignment for you is to go online to learn about it and write a one page summary in your own words. My expectations from you for are simple. They are as follows:

Be Respectful

Be Responsive

Be Responsible

We will elaborate on these further in class today. However, this is basically what I mean. I expect you to listen and pay attention. If I have to remind you not to have side conversations with your friends in English, even once, you will not get any credit for the day's classroom participation. That will cost you one point. I expect you to speak as much as you are able to in French, both inside and outside of the classroom. If I feel you are not participating as much as you could be, I'll speak to you about it in private. You will not lose any points for this unless after two private discussions and one parent conference, it becomes clear that you are just not trying. I expect you to do every assignment, no exceptions. For every day you miss French class because of an illness or because of some other valid excuse, you will be given one extra day to make up your work without penalty. You will lose one point for every assignment you do not hand in and half a point for each late assignment. Oral and/or written evaluations will be given every couple of weeks. They will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If I am doing my job correctly and if you are actively participating, there is no reason any of you should fail and lose a point for an evaluation.

My goal is to make this class comprehensible, relevant, and interesting for each and every one of you. It is your responsibility to respectfully let me know if I am falling short. You will each be assigned 100 points per term. You need to have 90 points by the end of the term to obtain credit. A VOTRE BON SUCCES!

