

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Length: Two semesters

Overall Course Objectives

The MS French I course helps students:

- Master common vocabulary terms and phrases, including personal contexts such as greetings, family, school, and hobbies
- Comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, including the conjugation of regular verbs in the present tense, asking questions, and making comparisons
- Analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of regions including Metropolitan France and Québec, Canada
- Participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts
- Generate language incorporating basic vocabulary and grammar patterns.
- Read, write, speak, and listen for meaning in basic French
- Regularly assess progress in proficiency through quizzes, tests, and speaking/writing submissions

Recurring Content

Vocabulary Theme

- Each unit presents a new set of vocabulary words pertaining to a particular theme. Each topic is first presented in context and then the vocabulary is further practiced through a variety of interactive activities and practices. A printable vocabulary list is also provided.

Grammar Concept

- Each unit introduces a new grammar pattern. The concept is first introduced in a contextualized situation and then presented in a multimedia grammar animation. The concept is then further practiced in several interactive activities throughout the unit. A printable explanation of the pattern is also provided.

Presentation of Culture through Culture Videos

- In each unit, students learn about various cultural aspects (e.g. practices, products, and perspectives) of a French-speaking country through short video presentations.

“Out of Seat” Activities

- Several times during the year, students are given opportunities to use the language “outside” the course. These are specific assignments directing students to interact in a genuine way with the French language or French-speaking cultures.

Speaking and Writing Activities

- Students complete speaking and writing activities in each unit. These activities give students a chance to become more familiar with the speaking and writing patterns of French by applying them in communicative situations.

Listening and Reading Comprehension Activities

- Each unit contains both listening and reading comprehension practices. They are based on the vocabulary, grammar, or culture concepts presented that unit and challenge students to identify the main ideas and significant details of the listening/reading excerpts

Assessments

- Listening and reading comprehension quizzes verify that students comprehend the main ideas and/or significant details of target language passages or conversations.
- Culture comprehension quizzes verify that students have understood important concepts presented in the culture presentations.
- Unit tests assess students’ mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concepts presented in that unit. Each unit test also includes reading and listening comprehension questions and an oral or written assessment.
- Midterm and Semester Exams are comprehensive in nature. Not only do they assess students’ knowledge of the language, but they also assess students’ ability to produce the language in a communicative way. Midterms and Semester Exams include both oral and written assessments.

“Life-long Learner” Assignments

- Each semester, students are required to create a plan for incorporating French into their daily lives. They accomplish this by outlining the long-term benefits of learning French, by making goals for what they want to accomplish with their mastery of the language, and by creating a plan for accomplishing their goals.

“Explore” Activities

- These activities help students develop a more profound understanding of French-speaking countries and cultures.

“Webquest” Activities

- These special activities provide students the opportunity to link out to authentic sources of language on the Internet. Students are given practical tasks where they must use their language to accomplish the assignment.

Journal

- Journal assignments allow students to make cultural comparisons, reinforce new vocabulary and grammar patterns, and practice communicating in the language.

Pronunciation

- Pronunciation lessons are presented in short animation videos. These videos focus on the unique sounds of the language. Follow-up activities throughout the unit provide additional practices for students to improve their pronunciation skills.

Course Scope and Sequence

Semester 1				
	Vocabulary	Grammar	Culture	Pronunciation
Unit 1	Greetings	Subject Pronouns "Tu" vs. "Vous"	Introduction to France	
Unit 2	School Alphabet	Nouns Definite Articles Indefinite Articles	School	Alphabet Guide to French Rhythm & Accents
Unit 3	Descriptions Colors	Conjugating Verbs "Être" and "Avoir" Adjectives: Agreement	Food: Courses, Cheese, Pastries, Bread	
Unit 4	Countries and Nationalities Numbers 0-30	"Être" + Nationality Adjectives: Placement	Language	Difference between é and è (using et and est)
Midterm Review and Test				
Unit 5	Common ER Verbs Telling Time	Present Tense ER Verbs	History of France	
Unit 6	Common IR Verbs Conjunctions	Present Tense IR Verbs	Soccer	"S"
Unit 7	Other Verbs Adverbs	Present Tense RE and OIR Verbs Irregular Verbs	Literature: Victor Hugo	
Unit 8	Days, Months, and Seasons Numbers 30-100	Negation	Art in France	"G" and "J"
Unit 9 Final Review and Test				
Semester 2				
Unit 10	Hobbies	faire versus jouer Asking Questions	Introduction to Quebec	The Cedilla
Unit 11	Food (part 1)	Interrogative Words	Hockey	
Unit 12	Food (part 2)	Partitive Articles	Food: poutine, cabane à sucre	The letter H
Unit 13	Family	Possessive Adjectives	Accent	
Midterm Review and Test				
Unit 14	Places	Present Tense: aller	History	The letter R
Unit 15	Animals	Comparatives	Carnaval d'hiver and Tulipes	

Semester 2 (Continued)				
	Vocabulary	Grammar	Culture	Pronunciation
Unit 16	Shopping	Superlatives	Literature: Gabrielle Roy	The letter Y
Unit 17	Weather Expressions	"Il y a"	Cirque du Soleil	
Unit 18 Final Review and Test				