



HIGH SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

245 East 56th Street

New York City, NY 10022

Phone: 212 752-4340 Fax: 212 752-4945

www.artanddesignhs.org

Manuel A. Ureña, Principal

July 24, 2018

Dear French Students/Parents,

Whether you are new at French or are continuing, it is important to understand French culture. The following assignment is to introduce new French students and refresh the memory of those continuing their studies to the wonderful world of language through French culture. I look forward to your presence and voice in French class in September!

Why is it important to learn French? Did you know that...?

1. There are over 200 million people in the world, in more than 50 countries, on five continents who speak French.
2. There are over 20 million French speakers nearby— Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and even closer to home, in Louisiana, and New England.
3. French is, either directly or indirectly, the means of communication of over a quarter of a billion people in Africa where it is the official language of 18 countries.
4. French opens doors in Canada, the top trading partner of the United States.
5. French is the Romance language most similar to English; about 30% of all English words can be traced to French, so learning French will improve your English-language skills.
6. French is among the official languages of the United Nations, UNESCO, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labor Organization, the International Olympic Committee, the 31-member Council of Europe, the European Community, the International Red Cross, postal services around the world, the organization for African Unity, and the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (to name a few of the organizations).
7. A second language is often a college requirement and, through its connections to English, can increase your success in your studies.
8. French gives you access to discoveries and prominent persons in the world of art, government, food, literature, architecture, science, medicine, technology, music, diplomacy, fashion, and cinema.

Theresa Budney, AP Math/ Special Education (TBudney@schools.nyc.gov)
Michelle Daly, AP Guidance/ Science (MDaly6@schools.nyc.gov)
Barrington McCalla, AP Safety & Security/Phys. Ed. (BMccall2@schools.nyc.gov)
Sari Pérez, AP Organization (SPerez13@schools.nyc.gov)
Elma Reingold, AP Art/Architecture/CTE (EReingo@schools.nyc.gov)
Lynn Rosales, AP English/S.S./LOTE (LRosales@schools.nyc.gov)

9. French connects you to the history of the United States and the thousands of places whose names are derived from French.

Whatever your personal reasons for learning French, have a good journey as you discover French language and culture!

Bonne chance! (*Good luck!*)

~ Mme. Jutard

At the start of the year, you will make a poster or a pamphlet to encourage people to learn French. Please bring your responses to the following with you on the first day of school - Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Task 1: What are your three reasons for learning French?

Task 2: French Culture: What do you know about France? Where is France? What is the capital of France? How many people live there?
Provide 10 facts about France and French people:

Task 3: Identify **five for each** of the following:

1. Largest cities in France, including the capital
2. Best known places to visit, not including the capital
3. French painters
4. French writers
5. French musicians or composers.
6. Important historical events
7. French designers
8. Cartoon characters
9. Scientists
10. Political leaders of France
11. French films