

# **French-American School after- school program for alumni: A preparation for high school courses, SAT and Advanced Placement**

## **Description**

This class is offered after school hours, once a week, in sessions of two hours. The goal of this class is to offer a way for FASSV alumni, who are primarily in public middle schools, to maintain and improve their skills in French language. It should create a bridge between the French American school and high school. Ultimately, students should be able to get into third year level in high school and be well prepared for taking the SAT II in French and the French Advanced Placement tests.

## **Goals**

The class will target the **four skills** that are typically required to be successful in high school French programs and exams: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Special attention will be placed on writing skills that seem to be an area of weakness for most students, with an emphasis on proper grammar and vocabulary development.

## **Materials**

FASSV will provide a **reference grammar** and a variety of books adapted to the level and interest of the students.

### Examples of books

*L'Enfant noir*, Camara Laye

*L'oeil du Loup*, Daniel Pennac

*Contes choisis* (an anthology of fairy tales from France, Canada, and Africa)

*Fables*, la Fontaine

*Le Petit Prince*, Saint-Exupéry

Newspaper articles, internet and audio-visual resources.

## **Course expectations**

Students are expected to participate actively during class time. Regular attendance is essential. Students will have an average of one hour a week homework which may consist of reading, practice on language structures or writing.

## **Evaluation**

Feedback will be regularly given to the students and their parents. It is essential that students be made aware of any weakness in their language production that could impair them in high school programs or exams.

## Skills and competences

This program enables students to maintain and further their knowledge of the French language through the use of oral communication, reading, and writing activities based on a variety of French literary and media works.

<b>ORAL</b>	<b>COMPETENCES</b>
<p><i>Overall Expectations:</i></p> <p>Students will listen and respond to broad range of spoken texts and media woks intended for French-speaking audience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain ideas in small-group discussions, impromptu exchanges, oral presentation, and formal debates</li> <li>• compare and comment viewpoints</li> <li>• debate issues relating to the topics being studied</li> <li>• dramatize a scene from a reading assignment</li> <li>• contribute to discussions</li> </ul>
<b>READING</b>	<b>COMPETENCES</b>
<p><i>Overall Expectations:</i></p> <p>Students read and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of materials intended for a French-speaking audience. They interpret authentic texts on diverse topics They identify and understand language conventions used in their readings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify text forms and describe their characteristics</li> <li>• understand author’s intent</li> <li>• critique a text</li> <li>• identify and understand stylistic devices</li> <li>• recognize and use language conventions</li> </ul>
<b>WRITING</b>	<b>COMPETENCES</b>
<p><i>Overall Expectations</i></p> <p>Students will write clearly, coherently, and persuasively on diverse topics They will use a variety of forms and identify and use appropriate language conventions in their writing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write multi paragraph texts that include an introduction, the development of ideas, and a conclusion</li> <li>• use notes and write summaries</li> <li>• write a newspaper article</li> <li>• use language in a variety of forms: critiques, letters, advertising etc.</li> </ul>

SAMPLES OF PROJECTS AND TASKS

TEXTS	TASK	PRODUCTION	LANGUAGE
<p><b>“CONTES” and FAIRY TALES</b></p> <p>Anthology of tales from Canada, France and Africa.</p>	<p>Understand structures of traditional fairy tales through different times and countries</p>	<p>--Write a “conte” following the traditional pattern.            --Write a parody of a fairy tale            --Read a “conte” aloud following the tradition of the “griot”.</p>	<p>--Review use of past tense in a narration.            --Use of dialogues in a narration.</p>
<p><b>POETRY</b></p> <p>Anthology of poems.            Study of “<i>Liberté</i>” d’Eluard            La Fontaine: choice of fables.</p>	<p>Study and compare different styles of poetry            Study versification patterns</p>	<p>--Write the continuation of “<i>Liberté</i>” d’Eluard            --Write bio-poem</p>	<p>--Work on precision of vocabulary and images in a poem</p>
<p><b>AUTOBIOGRAPHY</b></p> <p>Internet research  <i>L’enfant noir</i> de Camara Laye</p>	<p>Research on the internet of a famous person’s autobiography.            Read the autobiographic novel <i>l’Enfant noir</i> de Camera Laye</p>	<p>--Understand elements of autobiographic style            --Write autobiographic text</p>	<p>--Use of tenses in narration.            --Organization of written text</p>
<p><b>CULTURAL PROJECT</b></p> <p>French Painting            Famous historical person            News events</p>	<p>Study of the life and work of a French artist.            Presentation of the life of a famous person            Various current events of interest to the students</p>	<p>--Write a presentation with the intend of presenting it orally            -- Use technology (PowerPoint) to enhance presentation</p>	<p>----Use internet resources without plagiarism            -- Organization of information for oral presentation</p>
<p><b>INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS</b></p> <p>on topics chosen by students: book reports, summary, journals, essays etc.</p>	<p>Be familiar with a variety of written and oral productions            Study content of interest to students</p>	<p>-- explore and use a broad variety of voices in oral and written texts            -- Write a summary: discriminate between essential and superficial information</p>	<p>-- Work on language mechanisms (punctuation, spelling etc.)</p>

