



### The Value and Importance of French as a Second language (FSL):

📖 French is not only one of Canada's two official languages, but is also widely used around the world;

📖 Knowledge of a second language is valuable for a number of reasons. Through learning a second language, students can strengthen their first- language skills and enhance their critical and creative thinking abilities;

📖 Being exposed to a new language and culture will ensure that students are respectful and tolerant towards other cultures;

📖 The ability to communicate in another language provides students with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.

### What your child needs for French

Pens and Pencils

Binder

Dictionary (optional)

Students are expected to complete homework. Major assignments are given an absolute deadline. It is imperative that students adhere to these deadlines.

Students are also encouraged to seek extra help from their classroom teachers when necessary to ensure success in French class.

While the knowledge of any language has value, French is not only a global language but the mother tongue of many Canadians and an integral part of the Canadian identity. Learning French equips students to communicate with French-speaking Canadians and millions of French speakers around the world" (The Grades 9 to 12 Ontario French as a Second Language Curriculum 2015).

**French Department**  
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## *Sandalwood Heights Secondary School*

### **Communications Department**

The Sandalwood Heights Secondary School French Department is committed to building an equitable program of study that encourages the social and intellectual development of students. Further, our aim is to develop the essential skills of language acquisition: Comprehension, expression and fluency, and to expose students to elements of French culture.

## **French**

### Teachers:

**P. Lloyd-Henry (Department Head)**  
**Ms. L. Ouellette**  
**Ms. S. Skilleter**  
**Mr. N. Murat**

## Sandalwood Heights Secondary School French Department

Students will follow the prescribed course of study as outlined in the Ontario Curriculum. All students must take a French course in grade nine. They may choose between an academic and an applied course.

### Vision & Goals of FSL

*Students ... have the confidence and ability to use French effectively in their daily lives.*

- ✓ Increase student confidence, proficiency, and achievement in FSL
- ✓ Increase the percentage of students studying FSL until graduation
- ✓ Increase student, educator, parent, and community engagement in FSL

### Guiding Principles

- ✓ FSL programs are for all students.
- ✓ As one of Canada's two official languages, learning French is valued as an integral component of Ontario's education system.
- ✓ FSL serves as a bridge between languages and cultures.
- ✓ Learning FSL strengthens literacy skills as well as cognitive and metacognitive development.
- ✓ Research informs decision making by all stakeholders.
- ✓ Learning FSL is a lifelong journey.

### Assessment of Learning

Each course is divided into **Units of Study**. Generally, each unit ends with a summative assignment. Summative assignments are major parts of each course and their completion is mandatory for the acquisition of the relevant credit.

In French, students are assessed according to the **Ontario Curriculum Achievement Chart**. Students are measured in levels (1-4) in the following categories:

#### Knowledge and Understanding

##### Thinking

##### Communication

##### Application

Students working at **level four** generally:

- ☺ Demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding of content
- ☺ Convey meaning through different forms with a high degree of effectiveness and
- ☺ Use their knowledge and skills to make textual and contextual connections thoroughly

**Term Work: 70% of the final grade**  
**Final Evaluation: 30% of the final grade**

#### A note regarding online translators:

**Using an online translator is a form of plagiarism because the French work is that of the translator, not the student. As a result, it is not a demonstration of a student's writing ability in French.**

### Improving French skills at home

Your child can practice their competencies in French as a Second Language (FSL) by becoming familiar with the following websites:

- ✓ [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) – a comprehensive, dictionary that explains proper word choice and provides a contextual example of the word
- ✓ <http://bonpatron.com/en/> is a tool that highlights grammatical and spelling errors. This site DOES NOT make corrections to a student's work, rather it provides an explanation as to how to correct the error.
- ✓ <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/> - this unique website provides grammatical explanations and provides students the opportunity to practice a specific grammatical point (present tense, adjectives, future tense, etc.) by completing practice exercises.
- ✓ <http://www.wordreference.com/conj/FRverbs.aspx> – this site allows students to verify verb conjugations in a variety of verb tenses

#### To enhance vocabulary, students can also:

- 👉 Download French music and videos
- 👉 Watch French television programs
- 👉 Download French newspapers and magazines ([www.lapresse.ca](http://www.lapresse.ca))
- 👉 Travel to a French-speaking area/country