



September 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Bonjour and welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Obama! I would like to take this opportunity to provide a description of the IB Programme for the **French 9-10** course, how your child's work will be assessed, and also the academic and behavioral expectations of this class.

I. Course Description

Through a communicative, linguistic, and cultural approach to language learning, this course aims to 1) develop the student's communication skills necessary for study, work and leisure in a range of different, authentic contexts and for a range of audiences and purposes, 2) empower the student to develop an appreciation of a variety of literary and non-literary texts as well as critical and creative techniques for comprehension and construction of meaning, 3) enable the student to understand the nature of language and the process of language learning, which comprises the integration of linguistic, cultural and social components, 4) encourage an awareness and understanding of the perspectives of people from other cultures and 5) foster curiosity, inquiry and a lifelong interest and enjoyment in language learning.

II. Assessment Criteria

This course uses the IB Assessment Criteria and Rubrics as well as PPS District Standards to assess the student's learning in four areas:

A) Comprehending spoken and visual text (the student is expected to be able to listen for specific purposes and respond to show understanding, interpret visual text that is presented with spoken text, engage with the text by supporting opinion and personal response with evidence and examples from the text.)

B) Comprehending written and visual text (the student is expected to be able to read for specific purposes and respond to show understanding, interpret visual text that is presented with written text, engage with the text by supporting opinion and personal response with evidence and examples from the text.)

C) Communicating in response to spoken, written and visual text (the student is expected to be able to interact and communicate in various situations, express thoughts, feelings, ideas, opinions and information in spoken and written form, speak and write for specific purposes)

D) Using language in spoken and written form the student is expected to be able to organize thoughts, feelings, ideas, opinions and information in spoken and written form, develop accuracy when speaking and writing in the target language.

III. Grading Guidelines

Participation (30%)

- This includes participation in individual, pair or group work activities to practice the targeted **oral** skills in class. To receive full credit, the student must be on-task and actively engaged in the activity.
- Complete warm-up exercises in a timely manner.
- Taking notes in class.
- Speaking French as much as possible.



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Homework (10%)

- Homework is assigned daily. The purpose is to reinforce the concepts introduced in class and to evaluate the student's understanding.
- Some assignments will be reviewed in class. Students are encouraged to take this opportunity to ask for help and correct errors. Other assignments will be collected and graded.
- Students are expected to submit homework on the given due date. If a student is absent from class for a district-approved reason, it is his/her responsibility to ask me for the assignment that was missed upon return to school and then to turn in the assignment the following day.
- Partial credit (50%) will be given to work that is one day late and **will not be accepted** at all after that.

Speaking/Listening Assessment (40%)

- Presenting on a given topic pertaining to the current unit.
- Using Google Voice or the iPad recorder to demonstrate oral proficiency of an assigned topic. This assessment takes place in class. **Please note, if a student makes no attempt to complete the task, he/she will receive a 0.**
- Listening to a conversation, broadcast, music, or video and answering questions based on the information.

Reading/Writing Assessments (20%)

- This includes vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension tests or quizzes.
- Writing for a variety of purposes in the form of an essay, an advertisement, a blog, or a pamphlet for example.

PLEASE NOTE: Extra credit opportunities will NOT be provided.

Required Materials

- The assigned textbook which will be provided
- A notebook for class notes and warm-up exercises
- A folder for handouts
- A writing utensil
- The student's agenda book

Expectations

Academic: I expect that all students will do the following to be **successful** learners:

- Actively engage in classwork, pair and group activities.
- Speak in French daily.
- Complete assignments promptly.
- See me for make-up work when absent.
- Ask questions or see me outside of class if he/she is having difficulties.
- Take advantage of tutoring during QRT.

Behavioral: I expect that my students will do the following to be **conscientious** learners:

- Come to class promptly and begin warm-ups at the sounding of the bell.
- Bring all required materials to class daily.



