

**le 4 août 2017**

**Dear Parents / Guardians,**

**Bonjour! Bonjour! Bonjour!**

This is Mme. Steinhauer, and if you are receiving this email, your child is enrolled in French 6 this year, and I am your child's French teacher at Hopewell Middle School. Over the past twelve years, I have taught at Hopewell Middle School, Milton High School, and at Riverwood International Charter School in Fulton County. In addition, I have almost a decade of middle and elementary school experience in New York, Georgia, and in various schools in Nepal and India. I've also been a T.A. at the college level. As you can imagine, I love teaching, and I love kids of all ages!

I know some of you already because I taught your older children at Milton or in the last three years at Hopewell. I look forward to getting to know you again. If any of the info below is a repeat for you, skip on down. For my new families, here's a bit of background information about me:

I have been teaching French since 1993, first as a college T.A., then in high school, then in middle school, then in high school, and now back in middle school again. I had a brief interlude in 2004 when I taught English in Nepal; in addition, I have taught reading, resource-based instruction, Yearbook Class, and Italian. In the summers of 2009, 2010, and 2012, I taught poetry workshops in the Himalayas in India, and I taught young Indian girls who wanted to become teachers in their home villages. As you may learn from conversations with your child this year, I am passionate about teaching foreign language, I love French, and I absolutely adore my students. Every year I am blessed with another fabulous group of students.

For the 2017-2018 school year, I will be teaching French 6 and Yearbook.

**I have attached a supply list and a binder set-up guide for French 6. Among other things, students will need a small, separate French-only binder for this class rather than a section in their regular binder. E-mail me if I can help in any way.**

**So...on to the newsletter...**

**I would like to personally invite you to Open House/Curriculum Night, which will take place on Monday of the second week of school. You will follow your child's schedule around the school and meet his/her teachers. If you haven't already heard, the French classroom**

doesn't really look like a classroom. Come on by and see why French class is definitely a cool place to be. Croissants and chocolate will be served.

**Communication:** I will be in touch with you throughout the year through e-mail and also through my website, [www.BonjourMadame.weebly.com](http://www.BonjourMadame.weebly.com). There is a tab labeled "lessons and homework" at the top of the home page. If you click this link, you will be able to see a brief summary of what we do in class each day by level as well as any assignments and upcoming assessments. You can also subscribe to the homework blog and receive the homework assignment in your email inbox every evening. There will be a link to this page on your child's OneNote as well.

## **Class Information:**

**French 6:** This class is designed for the beginning language learner. Some students have had a bit of French before, and others have never heard more than "bonjour." By the second week of school, students will be able to meet and greet in French. They will understand me when I give classroom directions, and they will know that French people kiss each other on both cheeks when they see each other every day and when they say goodbye. Needless to say, some of my American students will find this to be veeeeerrrry strange. Others will think it's cool. Be sure to ask your child about what he/she is learning in French class. Re-teaching is one of the best ways to study!

Learning a language for the first time requires some getting used to. At this level, students are learning naturally by listening, speaking, and acting in class. However, once it becomes necessary to study, the best way to is learn a little at a time, maybe 15-20 minutes of practice per night. Students should keep up with their new words nightly so they don't fall behind. I will go over a variety of study skills in class but students need to figure out which strategies work best for them. Once students have their devices, I will use the Quizlet website for most study practice. This was so helpful for students last year!

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**Grading:** Once our grade books have been set up, I will update e-school (Home Access Center) frequently. Please e-mail me with any questions that you might have. I am happy to help. I am available for conferences by appointment. If your child was absent and did not make up work yet, no credit will be given until the work is turned in. Please make sure your child understands that it is his or her responsibility to make up work after an absence and to request a time to reschedule assessments. I have a make-up area where students can pick up and drop off missed work. There is no penalty for "absent" work. I also accept well-done late

homework (not done on time, no absence involved) for 70%. Homework “left in a locker” is considered late. Online computer assignments must be done the evening they are assigned unless you email me/ send a note about a need to do it in the morning. I check computer assignments BEFORE SCHOOL on the morning they are due. This gives students a chance to “sleep on it” and let those brain cells form connections!

**Dictionaries:** You do not need to purchase a French-English dictionary for this class. There is a free app and a website called “WordReference” that is great for looking up French words and expressions. Students should not use other online translators as the quality of what these sites produce is often subpar. WordReference is the only dictionary site that I recommend.

**French Club:** French club will be open to all students regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in French. Our first French club meeting will be on Friday, August 25, at 8:00 am in D743. French club will meet once or twice a month, usually in the mornings, and we may have occasional optional excursions. The goal of French Club will be to enjoy, promote, and celebrate French and Francophone culture at Hopewell through club activities and by supporting the French program. I have attached a French Club Flyer. This year, you can pay dues online [HERE](#), but you still need a permission slip (attached).

**Extra Help / Makeup times:** Extra help will be offered during the fall semester Tuesdays after school for 6<sup>th</sup> graders (4:05-4:45). Students can make up work from their absences before and after school, as well as during lunch or PRIDE time by appointment.

That’s all for now. Have some fun and get some rest this weekend. Enjoy the start of a wonderful school year. Go to <http://bonjourmadame.weebly.com> to learn more about French class. I look forward to meeting your children tomorrow and seeing you all at Open House!

Regards,

*Madame Steinhauer*

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS DISTRIBUTION LIST, OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED, PLEASE E-MAIL ME AND LET ME KNOW.