



Informative bulletin regarding foreign language

LEARN FRENCH!

Dear Parents:

Now that you have decided to send your child to Joliet Catholic Academy, you are faced with the decision to choose a foreign language for your child. JCA offers two equally challenging languages: French and Spanish. All languages have value. One is not more valuable or useful than the other. One is not easier than the other.

While Spanish is present in the US and would be useful to someone interested in social work, French is very close to us with our strongest business partner: Canada. Learning French would be useful to someone interested in a career dealing with international business, law, politics, diplomacy, interpretation, international organizations, medical field, research, science...

As the French teacher at JCA, I would like to give you an overview of the program and why choosing French may be right for you.

- Designed for college bound students who want to take their language studies beyond the minimum two-year requirement.
- Smaller class size, greater teacher attention to each student. Individualized attention.
- Experienced native teacher from France with seamless continuity between each level.
- AP French offered after 3 years of learning French.
- Honors classes in level 3 and level 4.
- Travel opportunities to Europe.
- Students are usually inducted in the French National Honor society as Sophomores.
- Great results in the National French Contest. Every year JCA students rank in the top 10 nationally.

French is most important in these fields:

- International organizations, international relations, diplomacy (The U.N, World Health Organization...)
- Business and Trade (Canada and Europe are top business partners)
- Medical research. (publications are published in French and English)
- Food industry and culinary arts
- Technology and Engineering.
- The arts and fashion

On the back of this letter you will find additional information on the reason to take French.

I hope you do consider learning French. I would be most happy to answer any question that you might have concerning your decision. Feel free to email me at faustrums@jca-online.org

Sincerely,

Mrs. Florence Austrums

Learning one language is not enough. Learning French is a career asset

In today's world, speaking one foreign language is not enough. Students who speak several languages will increase their chances of finding a job. The ability to speak both French and English is an advantage for finding a job with the many multinational companies using French as their working language, in a wide range of sectors (retailing, automotive, luxury goods, aeronautics, etc.). France, as the world's fifth biggest economy, attracts entrepreneurs, researchers and the cream of foreign students.

French is, along with English, the only language spoken on all five continents

More than 220 million people speak French on all continents. It is the second most widely learned language after English.

The language of international relations

French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. Proficiency in French is essential for anyone considering a career in any international organization.

An introduction to an incomparable cultural universe

France is often considered the language of culture. A French lesson is a cultural journey into the worlds of fashion, gastronomy, the arts, architecture and science. Learning French also offers access to the works of great French writers such as Victor Hugo or the pleasure of being able to understand the words of French songs sung by an Édith Piaf or a Charles Aznavour and even sing them yourself.

An advantage for studying in France

Speaking French opens up opportunities for higher education at some of France's best-known universities, often on very favorable financial terms. Students with a good level of French may be eligible to apply for a French government grant to enroll on a postgraduate course of their choice in France, leading to an internationally recognized postgraduate degree.

Visiting Paris and the rest of France

France is the world's top tourist destination and attracts more than 79,5 million visitors a year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and offers insights into French culture, mentality and way of life. French also comes in handy when travelling to Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Monaco and other places.

A language that opens up the world with many exchange opportunities

After English and German, French is the third most widely used language on the Internet, ahead of Spanish. An ability to understand French offers an alternative view of the world through communication with French speakers from all over the world and news from the leading French-language international media. It is easy for students to make contact with French speakers of their own age. French is a good grounding for learning other languages, especially Romance languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian) and even English, since over half of modern-day English vocabulary is derived from French.

A language that is fun to learn and a high standard of teaching.

Contrary to popular belief, French is not a difficult language to learn. It is a language that requires a certain precision but is also capable of expressing great subtlety. It does not take long to reach a level where you can communicate in French. French also appeals to students because it is a soft, melodious, romantic language. Learning French helps children to express themselves and gain self-confidence in front of others. Students also learn French through songs, thanks to the vast repertoire of singers past and present.

French teachers are renowned for their dynamic, inventive approach and high expectations. Since French has a reputation for excellence, students tend to be highly motivated and attain a high level of proficiency.