

Unit 03: Blackboards and Borders: School life in French speaking communities

Content Area: **World Language**
Course(s):
Time Period:
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit 3

Unit Title:	Blackboards and Borders: School Life in French speaking communities
Suggested Duration:	3 Weeks

Summary

In this three-week French unit, students explore the theme of school life in France and around the world, focusing on daily routines, school structures, and cultural traditions. Through a combination of reading, listening, speaking, and writing tasks, students will learn how to talk about their own school experience while gaining insight into the French educational system. Students begin by building vocabulary related to school subjects, schedules, and classroom activities. They read simple texts, infographics, and class schedules in French, answering comprehension questions to deepen their understanding. Listening tasks expose them to authentic or semi-authentic spoken French, helping them identify key details about the daily lives of French students. In the second week, the focus shifts to cultural comparison. Students research types of schools in France (such as *collège*, *lycée*, and *école maternelle*) and explore school traditions like *la rentrée* and *le baccalauréat*. Using a Venn diagram, they compare and contrast the French and American school experiences, analyzing differences in lunch periods, grading systems, uniforms, and classroom norms.

During the final week, students apply their knowledge in writing and speaking. They plan and write a journal entry in French about their own school day and share it with peers. The unit concludes with short oral presentations where students describe their daily school routine in French, reinforcing speaking and listening skills in a personalized context.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Interdisciplinary Connections
Reading and Writing Companion Standards for History, Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Grades 9-10▪ Grades 11-12
Math Practices: https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/math/Index.shtml
Science Practices: https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/science/Index.shtml

Find and paste appropriate Companion Standards or Practices here.

- **ELA:** Analyzing informational texts, schedules, and infographics in French. Drafting personal narratives about a school day using organization and detail. Using Venn diagrams and paragraph writing to analyze school life across cultures.
- **Math:** Reading and interpreting French school schedules using the 24-hour clock system. Calculating differences in school day lengths, recess times, or comparing lunch periods using basic math.
- **Social studies:** Exploring the structure of French schools (maternelle, collège, lycée) vs. U.S. schools. Recognizing how geography, government, and tradition influence school life in Francophone countries.
- **Sociology:** Understanding cultural practices such as *la rentrée*, *le bac*, school lunches, and vacation schedules.

Technology Integration

Technology Integration

Northern supports the integration of the [SAMR Model](#): a framework which extends learning through the use of technology. The installation of interactive boards, the purchase of softwares and subscriptions, and the investment in 1:1 laptops and various other instructional technologies are examples of Northern's commitment to enhancing students' learning and preparing the 21st century learner for college and careers.

<https://www.1jour1actu.com/espace-enseignants>

<https://fr.brainpop.com/subject/francais/seeall>

<https://enseigner.tv5monde.com/fiches-pedagogiques-fle>

<https://www.iletaitunehistoire.com/qui-sommes-nous>

<https://www.espaceproffle.com/>

<https://audio-lingua.ac-versailles.fr/spip.php?rubrique1>

<https://www.europeana.eu/en>

1. Sur Lepointdufle <https://www.lepointdufle.net/>
2. Studiodefances.com: http://www.estudiodefances.com/?page_id=9
3. Podcastfrançaisfacile <https://www.podcastfrançaisfacile.com/>

4. Tolearnfrench.com <https://www.tolearnfrench.com/lessons/dialogues.php>
5. Laits.utexas <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/html/toc/00.html>
6. Francebienvenue explications sur la langue avec des dialogues <https://francebienvenue1.wordpress.com/le-francais/>
7. Francaisfacile.com https://www.francaisfacile.com/cgi2/myexam/liaison.php?liaison=_dialogue_
8. <https://www.francaisavec pierre.com/> Français avec Pierre
9. Frank Sprog <https://www.franksprog.dk/>
10. Gabfle <http://gabfle.blogspot.com/>
11. Audio Lingua (tous les thèmes short recordings <https://www.audio-lingua.eu/spip.php?page=themes>
12. Lingua.com (textes for beginners) <https://lingua.com/french/reading/>
13. Schoolshape <https://french-resources.org/>
14. Apprendre le français avec TV5 <http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/>
15. Tous les thèmes possibles avec plein d'exercices le baobab bleu
 - a. <https://lebaobabbleu.com/>
16. <https://www.youtube.com/c/LearnFrenchWithFrencheezi> Learn French with frencheezi
17. <https://www.commeunefrancaise.com/welcome?youtube> Comme une française
18. Vocabulaire French and English subtitles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=200ju9pB-PU&t=6s>
19. Dialogue French and English with subtitles 123dialogues.com <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSz1NR3C6nY&t=22s>
20. <http://fleuh.fr/> (comprehension écrite orale grammaire et vocab tous les niveaux)
21. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTB_-J6DmlM Journal en français facile
22. C'est à toi internet resources <http://irc.emcp.com/ircfiles/French2e/>
23. Dictionary/sound and image : listening and speaking

<http://www.languageguide.org/french/vocabulary/>

24. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bvDIbMaBsA> Le Monde des Titounis

25. Lingolia : vocabulary of various units with pictures and grammar with exercises

<https://français.lingolia.com/fr/grammaire/les-temps/limparfait/exercices>

26. <https://fr.islcollective.com/> (printables)

Standard(s) Addressed

New Jersey Student Learning Standards – World Languages

WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPERS.1	Request and provide information by asking and answering simple, practiced questions, using memorized words and phrases.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPERS.2	Share basic needs on very familiar topics using words, phrases, and short memorized, formulaic sentences practiced in class.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPERS.3	Express one's own and react to others' basic preferences and/or feelings using memorized, words, phrases, and simple memorized sentences that are supported by gestures and visuals.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPERS.4	Give and follow simple oral and written directions, commands, and requests when participating in classroom and cultural activities.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPERS.5	Imitate gestures and intonation of the target culture(s) native speakers when greeting others, during leave-takings, and in daily interactions.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPRET.1	Identify familiar spoken and written words, phrases, and simple sentences contained in culturally authentic materials and other resources related to targeted themes.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPRET.2	Respond with actions and/or gestures to oral and written directions, commands, and requests that relate to familiar and practiced topics.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPRET.3	Identify familiar people, places, objects in daily life based on simple oral and written descriptions.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.IPRET.4	Report on the content of short messages that they hear, view, and read in predictable culturally authentic materials.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.PRSNT.1	Present basic personal information, interests, and activities using memorized words, phrases, and a few simple sentences on targeted themes.
WL.NM.7.1.NM.PRSNT.2	State basic needs on very familiar topics using words, phrases, and short memorized,

formulaic sentences practiced in class.

WL.NM.7.1.NM.PRSNT.4

Copy/write words, phrases, or simple guided texts on familiar topics.

STAGE I Desired Results

STAGE I Desired Results	
Objective (Transfer)	
<p><i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and comprehend simple texts, infographics, and school schedules in French with 80% accuracy. • Identify key vocabulary and details (e.g., time, subject, activity) in a French school schedule or daily routine passage. • Interpret and explain cultural aspects of the French school system, including types of schools and common traditions. • Listen to and understand spoken French describing school routines and identify at least 3–4 key details. • Differentiate between common school-related terms and times when heard in context (e.g., <i>à huit heures, je vais à l'école</i>). • Ask and answer basic questions about school routines (e.g., <i>À quelle heure est ton cours de maths ?</i>) using complete sentences. • Describe their own school day orally in French using relevant vocabulary, time expressions, and sentence structures. • Write a journal entry in French describing their daily school routine, including time, subjects, and personal reflections, with appropriate grammar and vocabulary. • Use transition words (e.g., <i>puis, ensuite, après ça</i>) and sequencing to organize their writing logically. • Compare and contrast French and American school life using a Venn diagram and write or speak about at least 3 similarities and 3 differences. • Research and report on one aspect of French school life (e.g., <i>le bac</i>, school meals, or school hours), summarizing key points in French or English. • Recognize and apply key school-related vocabulary (subjects, times, routines). 	
Mastery	
<p>Big Ideas/Understanding</p> <p><i>Students will understand that...</i></p>	<p>Essential Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does my school day compare to that of a

- Communication is the ability to understand and be understood in real world contexts.
- Language and culture are mutually independent.
- Learning languages provides connections to additional bodies of knowledge.
- Learning languages allows students to realize there are multiple ways of viewing the world.
- Language students have the ability to participate in multilingual communities.

teenager in France?

- What is school like in a francophone country?
- How does where we live influence our education?
- What classes do kids take in Francophone countries?

Acquisition

Students will know . . .

- Key vocabulary related to classroom and schools, such as: le lycée, le collège, l'université, la/le prof, la salle de classe, les étudiants, le directeur, le conseiller...
- Expressing likes and dislikes
- different types of schools and grade levels
- typical components of a school day
- The names of school subjects, such as: le français, l'anglais, l'histoire, la géographie, la biologie, les sciences, les maths, la chimie, la physique, le dessin, le chant, la musique...
- How to tell exact time and interpret the 24-hour clock.
- Cultural notes on french/francophone schools and courses.
- school supplies
- national exams in France and Quebec

Students will be skilled at . . .

- Describe their day in school and distinguish cultural practices in both their country and a francophone school, such as schedules, courses, classroom setting, relationships, grading, and different pathways to graduate.
- Express like and dislike in simple sentences using the correct forms of the verb: aimer, préférer, and détester.
- Talk and ask others about their classes, their schedule, their teachers; express like and dislike and appreciation of others' preferences.
- Ask questions and respond to questions about their personal information related to school.
- Talk about their schedule and compare it with classmates and with the schedule of students living in France.
- using correct official times to read school schedules
- reading a school schedule
- comparing differences with the SAT/ACT vs le

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • classroom commands 	<p>Brevet and le Bac</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding classroom rules in France and some classroom commands
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STAGE II Assessment Evidence

STAGE II Assessment Evidence	
Assessments (Linked weekly below)	Practices (Linked weekly below)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a School schedule for a typical teenager entering high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets that students will complete in classes • Read simple texts, infographics, or schedules in French showing a typical school day with comprehension questions • Venn Diagram to compare and contrast school life • Listen to French speakers describe their school routines and identify key details. • Practice asking and answering questions about their own school experience • Research types of French schools and their school traditions • Journal entry: school day • infographics on school timetables • Read simple texts, infographics, or schedules in French showing a typical school day and types of families with comprehension questions • readings on national exams • matching with school supplies • creating rules in French according to the French way of life • reading school supply lists in French and noticing differences with items • watching a video on someone shopping for school supplies • role play with class commands and instructions

and pointing to specific rules

Modifications

How are the evaluations/assessments modified/accelerated? (i.e.: alternate assessment)

- Word banks when needed
- Extra time on assessments
- Special seating (away from distractions)
- Read and explain the directions to the student
- Use a highlighter or marker to identify key words, phrases, or sentences
- Shorter sections
- Larger print
- Use visuals + icons for vocabulary and instructions
- Break tasks into chunks with clear step-by-step instructions
- Give choice in how students show learning (draw, speak, act, write)
- Include peer or group work for support
- Use sentence starters, graphic organizers, and audio supports
- Include movement-based tasks (stations, scavenger hunts, etc.)
- Provide multiple choice answers or Word banks
- Repeat or rephrase instructions if needed

STAGE III Learning Plan

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Organize plan by weeks

Week 7:

- Introduce school subjects vocabulary and differences in certain ones (health, philosophy and social civics)
- introduce schools (lycee, college, ecole maternelle) with grade levels and compare to other

Francophone countries

- Compare daily school routines in Francophone countries
- look at differences (lunch, schedule, educational system, national exams like le bac).
- discuss importance of le bac and different types and le Brevet with sample questions and compare to SAT and ACT

Week 8 Compare school

- Watch a short video clip about a typical school day in several francophone countries
- read a list of school rules compared to the way in which they are said (Les regles de la classes/la vie de la classes)
- introduce class commands and do a small role play between teacher and student
- school calendars with school year
- Reflect and discuss similarities and differences between their own school experience and school in francophone countries drawing references on multiple examples

Week 9:

- design a school schedule
- simple school supply vocab
- things one needs to start school school list and types of school supplies. Mention textbooks being bought a local bookstore and paid by students.

Modifications

How are the activities modified/differentiated? (i.e.: abridged text)

- Add visuals to support discussion (printed photos or slides showing meals).
- Provide sentence starters
- Create a Gallery Walk Worksheet to guide them
- Use visuals + icons for vocabulary and instructions
- Break tasks into chunks with clear step-by-step instructions
- Give choice in how students show learning (draw, speak, act, write)
- Include peer or group work for support
- Use sentence starters, graphic organizers, and audio supports
- Include movement-based tasks (stations, scavenger hunts, etc.)
- Repeat and rephrase directions

- Verbal cues as reminders to stay on task
- Reduce volume of the assignment
- Keep questions in the order for any reading comprehension activity
- Break material into small parts
- Allow students to work with responsible partner
- For crosswords, provide word banks

Specific Resources for Unit

Specific Resources for Unit
Attached Affirmative Action Compliance Checklist

- Videos for comprehension and differentiation
 - Youtube.com video clips on a typical day in the life of a student from West Africa
- Podcasts for Aural Comprehension
- Gaming resources
 - Flashcards
 - Flyswatters
 - Cards for Grab it!
 - kahoot
 - quizlet live

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

<u>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion</u>
NB World Language department believes that effective world language instruction promotes and advances social justice by affirming the dignity of students, languages, and cultures. To this aim, the revised standards afford each student the opportunity to use the target language to tell their own stories and to value and advocate for equity, global awareness, and intercultural understanding. The department recognizes the need to encourage dialogue and relationships on equal terms and empower the students to advocate for

themselves and others by providing the tools for ongoing inclusive and equitable communication.

[Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, LGBTQ, and students with 504 plans.

Career Readiness (9.2), Life Literacies and Key Skills (9.4) Standards

WRK.K-12.P.1	Act as a responsible and contributing community members and employee.
WRK.K-12.P.2	Attend to financial well-being.
WRK.K-12.P.3	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
WRK.K-12.P.4	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
WRK.K-12.P.5	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
WRK.K-12.P.6	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
WRK.K-12.P.7	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
WRK.K-12.P.8	Use technology to enhance productivity increase collaboration and communicate effectively.
WRK.K-12.P.9	Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence.

Climate Change Education

ClimateChange Education	
Enduring Understandings/Core Ideas	Performance Expectations
Math and ELA- Provide a brief description of a lesson or activity that relates to Climate Change. All other Content Team copy and paste the <u>Core Idea and Performance Expectation</u> from NJDOE link above.	