

Let me start by welcoming everyone. I'm once again devoting my teaching time to French as a Second Language, a subject that means a great deal to me. My goal is your children enjoy it as well. With the month of September and most of October behind us, I can honestly say we have begun our year on the right foot. We have focussed our energies on the review of basic everyday vocabulary. Our goal is to take what we know and build upon it. We will always review before we move forward. I will quickly review and re-address prior knowledge over the next couple months. I want everyone to have the confidence that they have enough information to build from. If your child is new to Jacob Beam, remind them that my goal is they too are comfortable in our class.

This year, the grade fours and fives will be concentrating on building their knowledge, using their notes and the introduced vocabulary to create small, modelled conversations, guided by myself. They will be reading using both images and repetition. The fours will be taking part in both reading and writing information but they will only be evaluated on the oral portion of their program. They will not be assessed in reading and writing until term three, as is the board's policy. Both age groups will be working on modelled conversations where their job will be to review and build upon ideas at their own level and ability. We will openly discuss the difference in effort and ability between levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 and how it's possible to achieve each of the levels. I will always review with them what is expected from them as students. They will be given interactive activities like small book making or note taking, to cut and paste activities.

The intermediates will also be building upon what they know. The variety of subject matter and of information is daunting and can be consuming. I have discussed with them the importance of understanding word function and sentence structure. My focus with them is to prove we are not learning how another language works when we simply translate word for word. Things get lost in translation when that happens. We will focus on sentence structure and building conversations from what we know. This is a second language and we don't approach learning the same way as our own. We work with what we know and add to it.

All classes will be using common themes throughout the year. Each grade will be working at their own levels but keeping things consistent helps me keep information on the walls organized and useful. Second term we will be using the AIM language program to strengthen our reading and predictable writing skills. My goal is academic but I will do my best to encourage independence and the love of learning. If your child shows any concerns please ask them to speak with me and I'll do everything possible to ease their spirit.

All the best for a great year,

Jessica Rondeau