

The Parent Booklet
A Teacher's Guide
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Why use a parent booklet?

Parents and their students are often the most effective allies when a program is in danger.

Information offered to parents gives teachers the opportunity to

- show how French is valued
 - by students
 - by parents
 - by former parents
 - by French speakers in the workplace.
- illustrate the relevance of French in the world today.
- offer practical uses of French.
- challenge inaccurate common assumptions about French.
- encourage parents to be involved in their student's learning.
- enlist help with class activities from parents.
- **TIE THE PARENTS TO THE FRENCH PROGRAM.**

How can a parent booklet be used?

Teachers can

- Distribute it in class during the first week of school.
- Discuss a few pages of the booklet each day.
- Send the booklet home.

Parents can:

- Read the booklet with the student.
- Sign and write comments on « Et vous...? » page

(It is these comments that can be used in next year's booklet!)

What goes in the booklet?

- Many of the documents are samples or templates.
- Each teacher can pick and choose the documents that she/he prefers.
- Parent booklets are meant to be customized to fit the needs of each school.

Templates and Documents Found in the French Language Advocacy Kit

Cover Page:

- Introduces the Parent Booklet
- Suggests relevance of French as an international language

***Bonjour* Letter:**

- Introduces teacher and French program
- Describes future class activities
- Gives examples of relevance of French as an international language
- Invites parent participation

Local Resource Listing:

- Lists local museums, shops, stores that feature French products/events
- Shows parents how to complement their child's learning French
- Illustrates relevance of French to daily life

15 French Compliments for Your Child:

Lists appropriate expressions and pronunciation guide to offer compliments
Invites parents to use French at home

French Films to Watch at Home:

Lists French films appropriate for home viewing with the family
Shows parents how to complement & reinforce child's learning of French
Illustrates relevance of French to daily life
Invites parents to participate in an activity that involves French

Activities to Do With Your Child:

Lists activities, i.e. meals, exhibits, performances, vacations
Shows parents how to complement their child's study of French.

What you can do to help:

- Lists ways to enhance learning, i.e. share French words
- Shows parents how to support their child's learning French
- Enlists parent help

Study Strategies for French:

Gives ways for students to understand and retain information

Web Resources:

- Lists many websites that students can visit to use and learn French
- Gives parents resources to help their child learn French

Map of the Francophone World:

Shows the countries where French is spoken

Francophone Map Explanation:

Describes the International Organization of French Speaking Countries (IOF)

List of Francophone countries:

Lists the countries where French is spoken and arranges them by regions

Status of French language in the world:

- Describes the IOF
- Lists the countries where French is spoken according to the IOF

Maps of North America:

- Shows areas of the U.S. & Canada where those of French background live.
- Shows areas of the U.S. & Canada where French is spoken in the home
- Illustrates the relevance of French as an international & American language

Testimonials:

- Shows student quotes about why they chose to study French.
- Shows parent quotes about the value of French.
- Shows quotes of former students and adults in the workplace who value French.
- Shows quotes of academics, linguists and websites about the value of French.
- Supports the relevance and practical value of French.

Ten reasons to study French**40 surprising facts about French in the world****Celebrities who speak French**

Articles supporting the study of French:

Steven Brockmann: “The Study of Foreign Languages Should Not Be a Zero-Sum Game,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 6, 2009.

Barbara E. Bullock: “The Ease and Challenges for an English Speaker Learning French,” (Professor of Linguistics and French, University of Texas).

Calendar of activities:

List of class activities planned for each month
Supports the value of taking French

Internationally recognized Francophone companies:

Describes and lists many French & Francophone companies
Support the relevance of studying French

Career opportunities for French speakers:

Describes some of the careers French majors can pursue

French words in English:

Challenges the myth that French is harder to learn than other languages

Teacher biography:

Describes information a teacher might include
Gives an example

Survey of parents --“ET VOUS...?”:

- Provides the last sheet in the Parent Booklet
- Asks parents to sign after reading the booklet
- Invites parents to offer comments/testimonials
- Provides comments/testimonials to use in NEXT YEAR’S booklet
- TIES the parents to the PROGRAM