

## **Interdepartmental Cooperation for National French Week**

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A number of years ago, when we were planning our first National French Week observances, I decided to ask our principal for permission to address the department chairs at their monthly meeting. I wanted to see if they would be willing to aid and assist with our plans to celebrate French culture, history, and everything French during that week.

This needed to be done early in the year so that they could plan ahead. They were enthusiastic, agreeing that this was a good idea, and appreciated the list of suggestions I gave them. They thought that this was something that they could weave into their lessons.

When I checked later with my students, they said that indeed their other teachers had done something during French Week. Of course I sent a thank you letter to the school newspaper and a report on our activities to the district publicist. We raised our profile in the school that year and continued to do so every year thereafter.

### **National French Week - Suggested lesson topics for department chairs:**

#### **Art (architecture, painting, sculpture)**

Cave paintings (Chauvet, Lascaux)

Cro-Magnon sculpture, megaliths

Classical

Neo-classical

Renaissance

Baroque

Impressionism, Post-impressionism

Fauvism

Cubism

Surrealism

Expressionism

#### **Athletics and sports**

Pétanque (Boules)

Cycling (Tour de France)

Tennis (French Open)

Soccer (World Cup)

Rugby

Skiing

Car racing (Grand Prix)  
Olympic Games (Revived in 1894 by Pierre Fredi, Baron de Coubertin)

**Business**

Advertising  
Aeronautics and Defense industries  
Automotive  
Banking  
Design  
Electronics  
Fashion  
Hotel, food service  
Perfume  
Publishing  
Research and Development  
Telecommunications, satellites  
Transportation  
Wine

**Some companies doing business in the US:**

Accor  
Acela  
Aérospatiale  
Air France  
Airbus  
Alcatel  
Aventis Pharmaceuticals  
BIC  
BNP-Paribas  
Danone  
Decaux  
Hachette  
LVMH (Louis Vuitton)  
Michelin  
Pernod-Ricard  
Renault, Peugeot, Citroën  
Sodexo  
Vivendi Universal

**Cafeteria**

Give suggestions for menu items during French Week, such as –

Baguette sandwiches  
Beef Burgundy

Chocolat chaud  
Crêpes  
Croissant sandwiches  
Mousse au chocolat  
Omelettes  
Quiche  
Salade Niçoise

### **English**

Chansons de geste  
Romans courtois  
Fabliaux, fables  
Ballades, rondeaux  
Fairy tales  
Poems  
Letters  
Essays  
Plays  
Songs  
Novels

### **Home Economics**

Cooking: French recipes and techniques, Restaurant and Food service  
Sewing: Fashion design, Haute Couture

### **Mathematics**

Metric system (1790)  
Pascal  
Ampère  
Binet  
Bougainville  
Coulomb  
Descartes  
Fermat  
Foucault

### **Music**

Gregorian chant  
Early polyphony  
Medieval Troubadours and trouvères  
14<sup>th</sup> century Ars Nova (musical notation)  
Renaissance  
Ballet (17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century)  
Baroque

Classical  
Impressionist  
Neo-classical  
Modern

**Science and Technology**

Blood transfusions – 1625  
Automobile - 1769  
Food preservation methods – 1810  
Stethoscope – 1819  
Sewing machine – 1830  
Photography – 1839  
Gasoline engine – 1860  
Pasteurization – 1862  
Motion picture projection – 1894  
Aqua lung – 1943  
Ramjet – 1949  
Fiber optics  
HDTV  
Aids virus ID – 1983  
High speed trains  
Human Genome Project  
Aerospace and aviation technology  
Telecommunications innovations