

# The Franco "files"

MARCH 2022

A newsletter published by Madame Bailey for the students and parents of BSHS classroom 400



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FRENCH CLASSROOM?

Now that we are firmly rooted into the second semester, our pen pal exchange is beginning to take shape. We have written our introductory messages and filmed our introductory videos and are anxiously awaiting our first response from the students of *le Collège Jules Ferry*, located outside of Toulouse, France, who have recently returned from a two-week break. The students are looking forward to making some interesting cultural and language connections through our exchange over the course of the semester.

The French 3 & 3 honors classes recently completed their first unit which examined common destinations and activities one might visit/do during a trip to a metropolitan city. Through the exploration of this vocabulary, they also explored the city of Paris and its many cultural attractions as well as the *passé composé* and *imparfait*, two French verb tenses that are used to describe past events. We have just begun our second unit of the course in which we will examine the lifestyle habits we have which contribute to our physical, social, and emotional health. We will explore the ways in which our diet, sleep habits, use of technology, social relationships, and leisure activities play a role in helping us to maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle.

The AP French Language & Culture class is wrapping up their third of six units of study. In this unit, we have been exploring the subthemes of *La Vie Contemporaine*, including education, housing, holidays/celebrations/rites of passage, work, travel, and leisure activities. The students are also learning strategies for succeeding on the different open-ended writing and speaking tasks of the AP French exam and reviewing complex grammatical structures that they may encounter/need to produce on when they complete the exam in May.

### TIP FOR SUCCESS IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM:

One of the best things a student can do to be successful in the language classroom is to establish a level of comfortability. Here are a few tips...

- Get to know the other students in the classroom so you will feel like you are among friends. Exchange phone numbers with a classmate that you feel comfortable reaching out to with a question about the class.
- Get to know the teacher and help the teacher get to know you. Speak with the teacher about your goals and fears for the class. Ask questions often and early as you start to feel confused.
- Take advantage of classroom resources and routines. Know where you can look to find the vocabulary and language resources to express your needs in the classroom. Keep an organized notebook that will allow you to access important notes and handouts quickly.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**March 15 @9:30 am** – National French Exam (for students who opted in)

**March 16 @8 :10 am** – Induction ceremony for new members of *La Société Honoraire de Français*

**March 17** – Junior Achievement Event for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students

**March 18** – Snow Make-up Day

**March 21** – Teacher Inservice Day (no classes)

**March 28** – Last Day of MP 3

Need to contact Mrs. Bailey?

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## Making headlines in France...

Changes are coming for the *Champs-Élysées*, the most famous avenue of Paris which is often referred to as “one of the most beautiful avenues in the world.” Over the last 20 years, many luxury shops and restaurants have established themselves along the boulevard, leading to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic. In January 2021, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo approved a \$305 million project to refurbish the neighborhood into a green, more pedestrian-friendly space. Some of the proposed changes include a nearly 50% reduction in car traffic, expanded sidewalks for pedestrians, and the installation of trees and other greenery to create spaces which are being referred to as “planted living rooms.” The overhaul will also include an expansion of child-friendly spaces including outdoor cafés and playgrounds. The iconic cobblestone streets will also be removed to allow for a reduction in noise along the boulevard. The entire project is scheduled to be complete by 2030, but the first phase is set to begin at the *Place de la Concorde* and be unveiled in time for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.



A rendering of what the Champs-Élysées could look like with added pedestrian walkways and sidewalks

This project is just one more project in Mayor Hidalgo’s urban renewal program, often labeled as “Reinventing Paris,” since she took office in 2014. This program has already brought significant changes to the Seine riverbank and squares like *la Place de la Bastille*.

**Source:** <https://www.cntraveler.com/story/pariss-champs-elysees-is-undergoing-massive-changes>



## Expression of the Month

 IL PLEUT DES CORDES



IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS



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**Il pleut des cordes.**

**English Translation:**

It's raining strings.

**English equivalent:**

It's raining cats and dogs.

