

Course Outline for Grade 6 (Room 108)

Dear parents of Room 108,

Bienvenue à la salle 108 ! My name is Amanda Toews and I am so excited to be your child's teacher for the 2026/2027 school year. As some of you already know, I have been at École Sir William Osler for eight years now. I taught Music, Makerspace and Library in my first two years, and moved on to the classroom six years ago. This will be my sixth year teaching students at the grade 6 level. My goal as a classroom teacher is to create a fun and welcoming environment and to generate excitement for speaking and learning the French language.

Contacting Mme Toews

Please feel free to email me with any comments, questions, or concerns that you may have regarding your child's education and we can set up a time to chat over the phone. I can be reached at atoews@wsd1.org. My work hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. I will make every effort to respond to emails and messages within 48 hours. If there is something urgent, please call the office and I will return your call the same day.

If you would like to message me through the Seesaw Family app, this is also welcomed. However, please note that I do not get notifications when you send me a message through this application, so I may not respond as quickly as I would via email.

The **students** are welcome to contact me using Google Chat. This is the equivalent of sending me a text message. All they have to do is log into their Google account using their @live.wsd1.org email address, go to Google Chat online (or download the app), and send a message to my school email address. I will always respond to students by the end of the day or sooner.

Google Classroom and Seesaw

The students will mostly be using Google Classroom this year to access any online classwork. Seesaw will be used by me to send photos and update you on what's happening in the classroom. If you would like me to add a parent or guardian to Seesaw, please send me an email at atoews@wsd1.org.

Homework

In general, the only homework that students will regularly have is their French and English Home Reading, practicing multiplication/division facts, and studying for dictée and spelling tests. The workload is subject to change should a student not finish their assignment(s) during class time. Most homework items will be posted to the Google Classroom for students to access from home. I will also have a physical calendar posted in our classroom reminding students of due dates and other important information.

Home Reading

It is recommended that students read in French and in English for 20 minutes every evening in each language, making the total amount of time 40 minutes per evening. However, it is understandable that this is sometimes an unrealistic goal. If you have to choose between the two languages, please prioritize the French reading. Some families may also choose to do English one evening and French the next, on an alternating schedule.

Please don't hesitate to ask your child about what they are reading, even if it is in a language you don't understand.

Home reading books will ALWAYS be available on the carts next to the library. Now that your child is in grade 6, it is their responsibility to grab the books they require for practicing at home.

Practicing Math Facts

Please practice multiplication (and division if possible) facts to 12 at home with your child. Worksheets/games will be provided upon request.

Classroom Money

Students will have the opportunity to earn classroom money when speaking French in class. When they make an effort to use the French language, they will be rewarded with predetermined amounts of "cash," which they can then use to buy prizes at the end of the month. This classroom money system has nothing to do with **how well** your child can speak French, but the **effort** they put in to use their French on a daily basis..

Snack

Students are welcome to eat throughout the day in my classroom. However, as I will tell the students, the snacks they eat while I am teaching and while others are working must be nutritious, quiet snacks. An example of a non-quiet snack would be a bag of chips that makes noise while others are trying to work. Nutritious, quiet snacks may include fruits/vegetables, granola bars, yogurt tubes or any other nutritious foods that you can think of. These rules are subject to change if students are being disrespectful or interrupting lessons to grab their snacks. **Please note that we have students in our class with severe allergies to tree nuts, sesame seeds/oil, and sunflower seeds/oil. Please avoid sending snacks with any of these ingredients.**

Birthdays

You are welcome to send a shareable snack on your child's birthday. Pre-packaged, nut-free snacks are preferred. We have 15 students this year.

Field Trips/Volunteers

Normally, field trip letters will be sent out at least two weeks before the event. We usually require 1 or 2 volunteers to help supervise. Volunteers who have been chosen to assist with the field trip will be sent an email or receive a phone call confirming that they have been selected. We hope to provide an equal opportunity to all parents who wish to assist with field trips or other school-related events that may require volunteers. All volunteers must complete the **Winnipeg School Division Volunteer Form**, the **Respect in Schools Training** as well as watch the **WSD Volunteer Video**.

Course Overviews

French Language Arts (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Viewing and Representing)

Instruction in the French language will be incorporated throughout the majority of the school day. Students will be able to incorporate what they learn from activities (guided reading, journal writing, games etc.) and lessons in their French literacy block into other core subjects..

- Students will learn to understand, interpret and respond to a variety of oral and written messages.

- Students will continue to build upon their foundations in writing from a variety of perspectives and continue to critically analyze a variety of works including their own.
- We will also be looking at a variety of grammatical conventions, which may include “le présent”, “la négation”, “le passé composé”, “l’imparfait”, “le futur proche” and “le futur simple.”

English Language Arts (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Viewing and Representing)

Students will continue to improve upon their literacy skills through a variety of different lessons and activities. These may include novel studies, journal writing, literature circles and more. This year, I will be using the T.U.S.C. (Totally Unbelievable Speaking Club) program. This program seeks to improve students’ abilities to speak in front of an audience, a valuable skill in the modern world. T.U.S.C. will begin after the winter holiday, possibly later. We will also be studying the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar as well as *Lemony Snicket - A Series of Unfortunate Events - The Bad Beginning* by Daniel Handler.

Mathematics

Students will be exposed to a variety of math strategies and investigations that are designed to help foster the 7 mathematical processes of the Manitoba Curriculum: problem solving, communication, connections, mental math and estimation, reasoning and technology, and visualization. This will be done through a variety of lessons, centre work and games. Throughout the year, students will be exposed to the following math strands:

- Number
- Patterns and Relations
- Shape and Space
- Statistics and Probability

Jump Math, Thinking Classrooms, centres, math games, and online math programs like Net Math will be used to teach these math concepts.

Science

Below is a list of the science units for grade 6 in Manitoba:

- Forces

- Energy
- Genetics
- Evolution
- Science of Space

Social Studies

Below is a list of the social studies units for grade 6 in Manitoba:

- Building a Nation (1867 to 1914)
- An Emerging Nation (1914 to 1945)
- Shaping Contemporary Canada (1945 to present)
- Canada Today: Democracy, Diversity, and the Influence of the Past

We will also be discussing real world issues and events that are happening in the world today.

Health

Various health and hygiene topics (including Family Life topics) will be covered throughout the school year.

Arts Education

In the classroom, students will be provided with the opportunity to explore the elements and principles of artistic design in a variety of contexts. Students will use art media, tools, and processes to explore and demonstrate an understanding of the elements of art: line, colour, texture, shape, form, and space. Dramatic arts are also used to practice oral French.

Our Schedule:

Band - Days 1, 3, 5, and 6

New Media Manitoba - Wednesday afternoons

Physical Education - Days 2, 3, 4, and 6

Library - Day 6

I look forward to a fantastic year! I hope to work side-by-side with all of you in order to create the best possible learning experience for your children.

Mme Toews