



**LEAF: Cours de Langue pour
Étudiants Avancés de Français
Programme
2011-2012**



Audience:

There were seven (7) students completing the first year of the LEAF program. Six (6) were female, one (1) was male. Although the students were not minority students, several came from underserved schools in the rural areas surrounding the MSU campus. The criteria for admission includes a two-step process. In order to apply to the LEAF program, students must have a 520 SAT Critical Reading score or 21 SAT English and no lower than 22 SAT Critical Reading Score. Students must also complete an essay which is reviewed by the instructors. Students who have some experience with the French language must complete a diagnostic test.

Funding:

This program funding is 100% tuition supported. During the start up years, the Office of Gifted and Talented Education is providing additional funding to cover the cost of books and instructional materials plus instructor salaries not covered by tuition funds.

Objectives

This program seeks to:

- identify 7th - 11th grade students who reason extremely well in language arts curriculum in the four-county area;
- develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in French through classroom use of appropriate curriculum and instructional pacing commensurate with their abilities;
- enrich students' cultural knowledge about France and French-speaking countries;
- demonstrate that, with careful joint planning and coordination, existing community resources and multiple school systems can cooperate to meet successfully the needs of highly gifted students outside the framework of the regular school day.

This program was the result of a four-county survey of available French language programs with 38 respondents. Only two school offered AP French, thirteen didn't offer any French language classes.

During this first year of the program, the students completed two years of French curriculum. They not only learned to read and write the language but there was intense focus on speaking or oral language. During the

second year of the program, students will complete a third year of the French language curriculum and prepare for the AP French Language and Culture exam during the fourth semester of the program..

Description:

This was the charter year for the LEAF program. Two MSU instructors provided 150 hours of contact time with a three (3) hour class each Thursday and a two (2) hours study lab on Sunday afternoons. There were (2) graduate students who worked in the study lab along with the course instructors.

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Outcomes:

100% of the students and parents rated this program as excellent. End of year program evaluation by parents and students commented that students developed time management skills, were challenged and made students to be focused, organized and efficient in order to balance the course requirements and their home school expectations. Once student commented, "I'm usually not challenged much at my school so I get bored, but this kept me on my toes and busy." Another stated, "I liked the challenge of it. It helped me realize my potential."

Contact Information

Kathee McDonald, Director
Office of Gifted and Talented Education
Bessey Hall 434 Farm Lane Room 186Title
517.432.2129
gifted@msu.edu
www.gifted.msu.edu



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