



## LEAF

### Cours de Langue pour Étudiants Avancés de Français Programme

2016-2017



**GATE**  
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

#### Audience:

There were seven (7) students completing the LEAF French program. Six (6) students were female and one (1) was male. The criteria for admission includes a two-step process.

Eligibility criteria for LEAF are: SAT Critical Reading score of 560 or ACT English score of 21 and a Critical Reading score of 22.

Students must also complete an essay which is reviewed by the instructors. Students may also complete a diagnostic test to place into a higher level of the program.

#### Funding:

This program is supported entirely by student tuition.

#### Objectives

This program seeks to:

- Identify 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who reason extremely well in language arts curriculum
- 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
- Coordinate with multiple school systems and existing community resources to successfully meet the needs of highly gifted students within 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 schools offered AP French, and thirteen offered no French language program.

#### Description:

In the first year of the program, students not only learn to read and write the language, but there is a strong focus on speaking and oral language. During the second year of the program, students complete a third-year unit of the French language curriculum and prepare for the AP French Language and Culture exam during the fourth semester of the program.

Two MSU instructors teach a 2.5 hour class each Thursday and a teaching assistant runs a 2 hour study lab on Sunday afternoons.

#### Outcomes:

End-of-year program evaluations by parents and students show that students developed time management skills, and were challenged to be focused, organized, and efficient in order to balance the course requirements and their home school expectations. Parent comments:

"The professors were fantastic, nurturing, and attentive instructors. The TA conveyed a love of French which made for relaxed and fun study labs. The synchronous lectures worked very well for our daughter. We appreciated the extent to which students perfected both oral and written communication in French."

"The program provided a great opportunity for students to learn to independently manage their time and workload, experience new forms of learning (through online tools), and advance their language skills. I liked that the instructors treat our children as mature, independent individuals, while recognizing some of their limitations as middle school students."

#### Contact Information

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