

**LE GRAND CONCOURS—DEUX OU TROIS MOTS
À CE SUJET**

Salut! My name is Dan Bromley and I am the Grand Concours coordinator for the Washington/Alaska chapter of the AATF. If you are sitting on the fence about whether to do the Grand Concours in your French program this year, please read these three things I know about the National French Test before making your decision:

1. Students love the Grand Concours (and so do their parents!): Sure, they may gripe about the grind of testing in general (as they always do) but students love the recognition that the Grand Concours can bring. We recognize scholar athletes, scholar musicians, scholar thespians, and general student achievement in almost every other subject, so why not recognize student achievement in French? Most schools have an end-of-the-year scholastic recognition ceremony where upper classmen are recognized for the scholarships they are receiving for college. Consider putting your Grand Concours award recipients on the bill. Results from the National French Test arrive in April and the medals arrive in May, just in time for such ceremonies. Your Freshman and Sophomore medal and Honorable Mention recipients (and their parents) will feel especially validated to stand on stage with upper classmen honorees.

Multi-year participation in the Grand Concours looks great on college applications and an honorable mention or a medal can make the application really pop. I have several students who put their Grand Concours participation and recognitions on their resume when they apply for part-time jobs.

2. The Grand Concours benefits French teachers, too: As part of our evaluations as public or private school teachers, we are required to provide evidence that we collaborate with a community of teacher peers. If you are in a small town or a rural area, this may seem impossible: you may be the only French teacher in the whole district or sometimes even the whole county. Participation in the Grand Concours can be used as an evidence artifact that you are part of a greater nationwide community of French educators. In Washington state, for example, the Grand Concours can be applied toward fulfillment of Criterion 8 (“Exhibiting collaborative and collegial practices focused on improving instructional practice and student learning”) of the Teacher/Principal Evaluation Program (TPEP).



National French Contest Winners Front and Center at the Pullman [Washington] High School Awards Night, June 6, 2018 where the author teaches

3. **The Grand Concours is good pedagogy:** Even just by registering one student to take the National French Test, you will gain full access to an archive of the last several years of Grand Concours tests. These past tests comprehensively cover listening and reading at their respective levels and by extending the activities, you can make them cover speaking and writing as well. My students find many of the listening dialogues to be hilarious and experience great fun in acting them out. Any section of the test can be turned into a writing prompt by asking your students to write what happens next in a reading section or to write a letter addressed to one of the characters in a listening dialogue.

So, create your National French Contest Account today! The deadline to reserve paper and pencil tests was early (December 14, 2018), but for online testing you have much more time to reserve tests (February 15, 2019 is the deadline). Go to the AATF webpage for more information.



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The author admires a statue of *Le Petit Prince* at a museum in Hakone, Japan, dedicated to Saint-Exupéry's book

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Provenance des images de ce numéro

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