

French 5-6 students practice writing skills with new pen pals

By Logan Watson

Star Reporter

It all started when Colleen Sariscsany, a North French teacher, received an e-mail from Christophe Reale, a teacher in France.

Sariscsany had received an email from Reale in Montmartre, France asking her if her student would like to communicate with his English learning students. A teacher at Burke had recommended Sariscsany to Reale to use for pen pals. Sariscsany's French 5-6 students started to communicate with their French pen pals in February.

"It puts a 'face' on the language," Sariscsany said.

She continued to say that it helps with language skills because the students are learning French from somebody other than herself.

Nebraska started a partnership with France last year. The partnership would lead to more schools in the state to be pen pals with French teenagers.

"Speaking to somebody else who is also learning shows that it's okay not to be perfect at speaking a language," Sariscsany said.

She hopes that Omaha will establish a sister city relationship with a city in France. This would make it easier for students to go on trips to France for less money and spend time with French families.

"It gives students a reason to [speak French] correctly," she said.

Sophomore Mark Bodnar is corresponding with 16-year-old Aleksandra.

"It's exciting to see the political views and interests of people in other countries," Bodnar said.

But the excitement of having a pen pal in a different country is not lost on the lower level classes.

Sophomore Kayla Klepper said that she'd like to have a pen pal in French 3-4 class. She said it would help her read and understand the language better. She also said it would give her something to look forward to in class.

Even though Sariscsany's 5-6 students have only been writing to their pen pals for about two months she hopes to carry on with it.

"Who knows, maybe it will go somewhere."

Key words and phrases to know when your writing someone in French

English	French
Dear	Mon Chéri
Sincerely	Sincèrement
How are you	Comment allez-vous
I love you	Je t'aime
Thank you	Merci