

To the governing bodies of Waldorf and Rudolf Steiner schools in Europe offering the teaching of French as a foreign language

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the

37th French Week from 21 to 26 September 2025

at the Youth Centre in Baerenthal (Lorraine) - France

The power of images in French lessons from classes 1 to 12

Images and everything to do with images in the broadest sense of the term play an essential role in Waldorf education in general - and therefore also in the teaching of foreign languages. Rudolf Steiner always suggested translating everything into images before the cognitive mind took hold of the content. We're talking here about linguistic, musical and gestural images, such as we find in stories, literature, grammar and theatre scenes, but also artistically designed media, images drawn on the blackboard and in notebooks. In college and lycée, media education is increasingly being added.

Given the fascination with images among young people, both children and adolescents, and the saturation of culture by artificial image worlds, the central theme of the 'image' presents us with major pedagogical, methodological and didactic challenges, including in the teaching of French.

What aesthetic quality should illustrations of vocabulary words have, adapted to the age of the children, when working on the understanding of words? How can we use words to create vivid inner images when we tell stories? How can we get young people to discover the deeper images in texts and poems? How can we make pedagogical use of images from comics, graphic novels, photography and film in secondary education? How can teachers acquire criteria for evaluating the different qualities of images, such as archetypes, representations, images of the soul and illustrations?

The workshops focus on didactics and methods in small, medium and large classes, always with an anthropological background. This helps to identify new, authentic approaches that can be put to immediate use in the classroom.

The variety of artistic courses ranges from personal development to a concrete and stimulating impetus for teaching.

This year's lecturers will be : Siegmund Baldszun (Stuttgart), Bertold Breig (Frankfurt), Alain Brun-Cosme (Berlin), Marc-Alexandre Cousquer (Colmar), Céline Démoulin (Lixheim), Gilberte Dietzel (Frankfurt), Fanny Kastell (Siegen), Peggy Pigerre (Rastatt) and Katja Rizzo-Wersich (Darmstadt).

Registration costs for the 2025 course range from €665 to €765 (see the registration form for details). In the case of private or hotel accommodation, then the seminar fee is €530.

Training helps to ensure the quality of teaching and the personal development of colleagues, and has an impact on the College as a whole. With this in mind, we would ask you to allow the French teachers in your school to take part in this training. We would be grateful if you could distribute these forms to the teachers concerned. And please let us know your final decision (and the funding agreement) as soon as possible, so that our team can proceed with the organisation with the youth centre.

Sincerely

For the organising team of Mensch und Sprache e. V.

Gilberte Dietzel und Siegmund Baldszun