

RULES
FOR THE CHILDREN.

VAL-DES-BOIS

Commune of Warmérville

(Marne.)

1864.

Belongs to

THIS EDITION

This is an English translation of the original French text, made for the website leonharmel.com in 2026. It follows the original sentence by sentence, without cuts or additions.

The text is given in full, translated from the 1864 edition. It has been typeset in the spirit of the original: title pages and headings follow the layout of the book.

Léon Harmel, le Bon Père du Val-des-Bois

leonharmel.com

Translated from the transcription of a digitised copy.

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Part One.

Order of the Day.

Sunday.

<i>5.30</i>	Rising. — Washing and dressing.
<i>6 o'clock</i>	Prayer in the chapel, reading of the life of Monday's saint.
<i>7 o'clock</i>	Letter writing.
<i>8.15</i>	Breakfast, then recreation.
<i>9.45</i>	Departure for High Mass.
<i>Noon</i>	Lunch. Sale of good marks.
<i>2.15</i>	Vespers at the Parish church if there is no Benediction in the Chapel. After the service, a walk.
<i>5[?] o'clock</i>	Vespers in the chapel, then Benediction if it is the day for it. On the other Sundays, a hymn and instruction.

Ordinary days.

<i>5 o'clock</i>	Rising. — Washing and dressing.
<i>5.20</i>	Roll call, short walk.
<i>5.30</i>	Prayer, then study together.
<i>7 o'clock</i>	Mass.
<i>7.30</i>	Reading class.
<i>8 o'clock</i>	Breakfast, then recreation.
<i>9 o'clock</i>	Writing, 1 st and 2 nd classes together, girls separately.
<i>9.30</i>	Latin and catechism class, 1 st class.
	ditto grammar and reading, 2 nd class.
	ditto reading, 3 rd class.
<i>11 o'clock</i>	Reading class, 1 st class; girls separately.

	Catechism class, 2 nd class.
<i>11.30</i>	Gymnastics together.
<i>Noon</i>	Lunch, then recreation.
<i>1 o'clock</i>	Carpentry for the boys, handiwork for the girls.
<i>1.30</i>	Writing or fair copies, 1 st and 2 nd classes, girls separately.
<i>2 o'clock</i>	Catechism and history class for the 1 st class.
	Memory class for the 2 nd class.
	Reading class for the 3 rd class.
<i>3 o'clock</i>	Memory class for the 1 st class, girls separately.
	Sacred history class for the 2 nd class.
<i>4 o'clock</i>	Devotions in the chapel.
<i>4.30</i>	Walk.
<i>5 o'clock</i>	Recitation class for the 1 st class.
	ditto reading for the 2 nd class.
<i>5.30</i>	Singing together.
<i>6 o'clock</i>	Prayer. Life of a saint.
<i>6.30</i>	Dinner.

Tuesday.

<i>1.30</i>	Work in the workshop and visit to the Sisters.
<i>5[?] o'clock</i>	Study of modern languages.

Thursday (holiday).

<i>9 o'clock</i>	Liturgical studies.
<i>10 o'clock</i>	Modern languages.
<i>1 o'clock</i>	Walk until six o'clock.

Friday.

<i>7 o'clock</i>	Mass, then the Way of the Cross.
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Saturday.

Revision of the subjects studied during the week: Composition.

1st Wednesday of each month.

Monthly recitation of lessons.

1st Thursday of each month.

Holiday from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening.

1st Week of each term.

Term examination.

Special exercise.

At the end of every month, a composition with the pupils of the Brothers and those of the minor seminary.

Feasts of the first class.

We attend Mass in the chapel, then the parish Mass. Solemn Vespers in the parish church.

Special observations.

1. Each week there will be a composition in one of the subjects taught. The places will be posted up in the classroom. All the compositions will serve to decide the prizes at the end of the year, and to award a prize at the end of each term.

2. Piano lessons will be taken from 11 o'clock to noon.

3. Each week there are three lessons in modern languages: Tuesday, Thursday and *Sunday*.

4. Each week there is at least one lesson in entomology, a lesson that is to be put into practice on the walks.

5. Visits to the sick on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week.

6. On Friday and Saturday of each week there is recitation and explanation of the following Sunday's Gospel.

Part Two.

Examination Syllabus

For the first of January, the first of April, the first of July and the thirtieth of August.

First class.

First examination.

1. Catechism. The whole of the first part.
2. Latin. Lhomond's grammar up to the pronoun.
3. Sacred history. Up to the Exodus from Egypt.
4. New Testament. Up to the public life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Gospels of the Sundays of the term.

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1. Reading. Christian doctrine.
2. Writing. Cursive: the 3 sizes.
3. French grammar. (Noël and Chapsal) the noun, the article, the adjective, the pronoun, the verb up to the conjugations.
4. Arithmetic. (the Brothers' textbook) numeration, whole numbers, decimals. Idea of measures, lengths, capacities, weights, coins. Addition, subtraction.
5. Geography. The universe, the earth, the 5 parts of the world, the village, the department with its institutions and its administrations.
6. Drawing. (the Brothers). Lines and their measurement, angles.
7. Fables. (La Fontaine). Book I, fables 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22. Book II, fables 9, 14, 15. Book III, fables 1, 2, 3, 5,

6, 7, 9.

8. Foreign language. (German). Reading easy words.
9. Gymnastics. Wrestling, jumping, trapeze, poles, masts, ropes.
10. Vocal music. Church singing by means of the two scales, copying music.
11. Instrumental music. Piano.

Second examination.

1. Catechism. 2nd part with the sacraments.
2. Latin. Grammar from the pronoun up to the active verb.
3. Sacred history. From the Exodus from Egypt to the establishment of the monarchy in the person of Saul.
4. New Testament. From the beginning of the public life of our Lord up to his Passion.
5. Gospels of the Sundays of the term.

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1. Reading. As at the first examination.
2. Writing. As at the first examination.
3. French grammar. The verb up to the participle.
4. Arithmetic. Multiplication, division, up to the division of decimals.
5. Geography. France, its 5 great rivers, the 9 basins, 1. North, 2. Seine, 3. Seine and Loire.
6. Drawing. Measurement of angles and of the circumference, proposition, properties on these 3[?] subjects.
7. Fables. Book III, fables 11, 13[?], 18. Book IV, fables 6, 9, 13[?], 16, 18. Book V, fables 2, 3, 5, 8, 9.
8. German. Reading all words.
9. Gymnastics. Smooth rope, depth jumps, Indian clubs, ladders, rings, trapeze.

10. Vocal music. Singing the music of hymns on the 2 natural scales.

Third examination.

1. Catechism. 3rd part, or the commandments of God and of the Church.

2. Latin grammar from the verb *amare* up to passive verbs.

3. Sacred History. From the beginning of the monarchy up to the story of Tobias.

4. New Testament. From the Passion of Jesus Christ up to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.

5. Gospels of the Sundays of the term.

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1. French grammar. The participle, invariable words.

2. Arithmetic. Division, measures.

3. Geography. 4th Loire, 5th between Loire and Garonne, 6th Garonne, 7th Adour, 8th Mediterranean, 9th Rhône.

4. Drawing. Areas, triangles and quadrilaterals. Calculations.

5. Fables. Book V, fable 18, 20. Book VI, fables 5[?], 17, 18. Book VII, fables 1, 3[?], 9, 10, 16. Book VIII, fables 2, 9, Book IX, fables 2, 3, 4, 9, 17.

6. German. Understanding conversation.

7. Gymnastics. Indian clubs, ladders, parallel bars, dumb-bells, bars.

8. Vocal music. Plainchant and music. Reading, transposition.

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The 4th examination will cover all the subjects of the first 3 examinations together.

At each examination the pupils must present their fair-copy books and their writing books.

Second class.

First examination

Catechism. (The questions marked with an asterisk) the first part, concerning the Creed.

Sacred History. Course by Riquier and the Abbé Cambes. From the creation of the world to the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau.

New Testament (in the same course) up to chapter IV, entitled miracles of Jesus Christ.

Reading all words without the difficulties.

Writing. Cursive, large, medium.

Grammar. The noun.

Arithmetic. Numeration, whole numbers and decimals.

Geography and Drawing. With the 1st class, broad principles only.

Fables. Book I, fables 1, 2, 3, 5.

German. With the 1st class.

Gymnastics. With the 1st class.

Vocal music. With the 1st class.

Second examination.

Catechism. (ditto) The 2nd part, on the sacraments.

Sacred History. From the reconciliation etc. up to chapter VI, entitled: Sinai and the golden calf.

New Testament. From chapter IV up to Saint Peter's denial.

Reading. All the difficulties.

Writing. Cursive, the 3 sizes.

Grammar. The article.

Arithmetic. Addition and subtraction in practice.

Fables. Book I, fables 6, 7, 9, 10, 13.

Third examination.

Catechism. (ditto) The 3rd part, dealing with the commandments of God and of the Church.

Sacred history. From chapter VI up to the establishment of the monarchy.

New Testament. From St Peter's denial up to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.

Grammar. The qualifying adjective.

Arithmetic. Multiplication, definition and tables.

Fables. Book I, fables 16, 18, 22. Book II, fable 2.

Part Three.

Various Rules.

1. Obedience is the first duty of a child. It requires a prompt, complete and respectful obedience, both in doing what is commanded and refraining from what is forbidden, and in accepting the punishments that may be imposed. It permits neither arguing nor answering back; however, legitimate excuses offered at a suitable time and in a respectful tone will always be heard.

2. No one may leave the others without permission. This fundamental rule applies to walks and recreations, as well as to study and religious services, etc.

3. Care will be taken not to dirty or damage the walls, the tables, etc.; anyone who has, even unintentionally, caused any damage, or broken, spoiled or lost any object that does not belong to him, will consider himself bound to inform the teacher present at once; the teacher will decide the fine the pupil must pay.

4. Each one will take care to avoid whatever might hurt his brothers and sisters, such as nicknames, teasing, tale-telling, etc., and to

do, when the occasion arises, whatever may please them. This kindly disposition will bring happiness and joy to our little community, enemies of discord and of the wish for revenge. Above all, interest will be shown in the little ones, and they will be treated with kindness.

5. The children will watch over themselves particularly when they are in the chapel. They will remember that they are in the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ, really present in the adorable Sacrament of the Eucharist. They will consider lack of recollection in the chapel a serious fault, and will take care to give no cause for any remark.

6. Visits to the Sick. — The children will remember that they must respect the people they visit, and especially the poor, who are the friends of Jesus Christ; Our Lord on earth was a workman and had not a stone on which to lay his head, and he curses those who despise the poor. The children will make a particular point of being kind to the little children of the family they visit.

Alms are given from the proceeds of the treasury, from purchases at the fortnightly sales, and from what each one can set aside from his desserts or from the sugared almonds he has received.

7. Order is one of the most precious qualities a child can acquire. Disorder is the source of ruin and of vice; each one will therefore take care to fulfil the various offices of steward and treasurer described further on; each one will also make a point of keeping his exercise books clean and his books free of dog-ears and torn pages. Badly kept exercise books and books are always the mark of a bad pupil.

8. Play must be done with the same spirit as work. A good pupil is always a good player. Above all, one must avoid being bad-tempered when one loses. Since fairness is in all circumstances the virtue of an honest man, one must never cheat at games.

9. Above all, the children will have the deepest horror of lying: A thief is better than a liar. It is therefore better to risk the most severe punishment than to lie. Besides, the master will always be lenient to-

wards whoever tells the truth; the liar, on the contrary, will never be forgiven.

10. The children will consider that they own nothing; everything they use, clothes, books, games, etc., belongs to their parents, so they have no right to dispose of it. All gifts, purchases or exchanges are therefore forbidden and cancelled in advance; each one will see to it that his name is on his books, his exercise books, etc., to avoid any confusion.

11. Steward; Treasurer. On the first Tuesday of each month a steward and a treasurer are appointed in turn. The steward is responsible for the equipment: gymnasium, carpentry shop, carts, games, etc. On taking up his office he receives the inventory, which he checks against the actual state of things, and when he leaves office he hands the inventory to his successor, accounting for the presence of the objects. If any object has gone astray there is a fine; if everything has been in good order during the month, there will be a reward. The treasurer looks after objects that go astray or are not put away in time; his right comes into force as soon as recreation ends; he confiscates everything he finds outside its proper place, and the objects are returned the next day for two good marks; these good marks are exchanged for money, and the treasurer himself distributes this money to the poor each week.

12. Good marks. In all the subjects taught, good marks are earned according to the grades, in keeping with the scale below.

Grades.	Good marks.		
Nil[?],	0	6	to give back.
very bad[?],	1	4	to give back.
bad[?],	2	2	to give back.
weak[?],	3	0	
mediocre[?],	4	2	to earn.

fairly good[?],	5	4	to earn.
good[?],	6	6	to earn.
very good[?],	7	10	to earn.
perfect[?],	8	15	to earn.
more than perfect[?].	9	20	to earn.

For the chapel one receives or gives back: 1. For behaviour: *Double* the good marks according to the scale. 2. For Singing or Reading: The same number as for the subjects taught.

Value.

Green 1, Blue 5, Red 10, White 50, Light parchment 100, Smooth parchment 500.

For games, the garden, the workshops and the carpentry shop, the pupils receive yellow good marks, namely:

1. Work according to the rule 10.
2. Work done with attention 5.
3. A game won or a task finished in each team 20. The pupils may buy off their punishments at will, according to the scale below.

Dry bread 50 good marks. — Going without dessert 10 good marks. — A verb tense or the equivalent 5 good marks. — 30 minutes standing in the corner 5[?] good marks. — 15 minutes standing in the corner 2 good marks. — 5 minutes standing in the corner 1 good mark.

The punishment for lying can never be bought off.

Each pupil will have his book of good marks, kept by himself in good time and openly brought up to date: The master will initial it every day after checking.

13. The value of good marks for fines will be one centime.

14. Sales: Every fortnight there is an auction paid for in good marks. Whoever buys money or an object for the poor gains the right to an extra visit in the same week as his purchase.

Part Four.

Pupils

First Class.

Joséphine-Gabrielle-Léonie Collard, born at Saint-Étienne on 12 April 1853, baptised on 20 April 1853. Godfather Mr Harmel Tranchart, godmother Mrs Harmel Tranchart.

Marie-Joseph-Maurice Harmel, born on 5 August 1854, baptised on 17 September 1854. Godfather Mr Harmel Tranchart, godmother Mrs Hubert Harmel.

Marie-Joseph-Alexandre Harmel, born on 9 November 1855, baptised on 9 November 1855. Godfather Mr Harmel Tranchart, godmother Mrs Petit-Clément.

François-Armand Reimbeau, born at Reims on 13[?] February 1855, baptised on 18 February 1855. Godfather Mr J. F. Reimbeau, godmother Mrs Hubert Harmel.

Marie Hubertine-Anna Harmel, born on 1 February 1856, baptised on 4 March 1856. Godfather Mr Hubert Harmel, godmother Mrs Harmel Tranchart.

Second Class.

Pierre-Antoine-Henri Collard, born at Saint-Étienne on 11 August 1855, baptised on 27 August. Godfather Mr Guillot-Harmel, godmother Mrs Guillot Harmel.

Anne-Alexandre-Léon-Félix Harmel, born on 3 March 1857, baptised on 12 March 1857. Godfather Mr Félix Harmel, godmother Mrs Guillot-Harmel.

Marie-Louise-Ernest-Gustave Harmel, born on 13[?] October 1857, baptised on 17 October 1857. Godfather Mr Ernest Harmel, godmother Miss Louise Guillot.

Marie-Félicie-Juliette Harmel, born on 13[?] September 1858, baptised on 21 September 1858. Godfather Mr Félix Harmel, godmother Mrs Maquet-Harmel.

Third Class.

Marie-Joseph-Georges Harmel, born on 9 May 1860, baptised on 4 June 1860. Godfather Mr Léon Harmel, godmother Mrs Hubert Harmel.

Louis-Ernest-Julien Harmel, born on 15 May 1860, baptised on 18 June 1860. Godfather Mr Ernest Harmel, godmother Miss Louise Guillot.

Fourth Class.

Marie-Théodore-Camille Harmel, born on 30 July 1862, baptised on 9 August 1862. Godfather Mr Théodore Tranchart, godmother Mrs Tranchart-Froment.

Clémence-Gabrielle-Maria Harmel, born on 26 April 1862, baptised on 30 April 1862. Godfather Mr Collard Harmel, godmother Mrs Reimbeau-Harmel.