



**International  
School**  
Los Angeles  
**Lycée  
International**

# **Academic Guide**

## **International School of Los Angeles**



# Accreditations & Memberships

The International School of Los Angeles (LILA) holds triple accreditation from the **French Ministry of Education**, the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges** (WASC), and the **International Baccalaureate Organization** (IBO). Our School also belongs to the *agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger* (AEFE), *mission laïque française* (MLF), and the **National Association of Independent Schools** (NAIS).

## Accreditations:



## Memberships:



The International School of Los Angeles teaches a bilingual program from preschool through 12th grade culminating in the *French Baccalauréat* or the International Baccalaureate. Students are taught to read, write, and speak both languages by the end of their elementary education. Satisfying both the Common Core Standards and the French Ministry of Education's requirements necessitates a rigorous schedule; the percentage of each language of instruction varies at each grade level.

# Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRs)

Upon graduation, LILA students will be prepared to be:

## Academic Achievers who:

- meet or exceed the established LILA standards in English, French, mathematics, sciences, history and other subjects

## Effective Communicators who:

- use spoken and written communication in both French and English to express their ideas
- master the languages so that they can succeed academically
- listen to others, interpret, and respond constructively
- demonstrate writing skills through reports, letters, essays, and creative writing assignments

## Active Learners who:

- show a positive attitude towards learning
- use criticism in a creative and positive way
- use new technology and computer resources
- want to learn and show curiosity
- understand and follow directions
- make good use of time and complete assignments
- exhibit good study and work habits that include regular attendance, punctuality, and effective time management

## Literate Individuals who:

- gather, process, and communicate information through reading and through written and oral expression, actively listening in both French and English
- concentrate, listen, and memorize
- situate themselves in the world that surrounds them
- show interest and sensitivity for different artistic fields

## Active Problem Solvers who:

- use several different types of knowledge in increasingly complex situations
- formulate questions and propose solutions taken from observation, measurement, and data comparison
- transfer learned skills to new situations

## Productive Individuals who:

- are able to work individually and in groups
- know how to structure and present their work
- can work autonomously towards goals they have set
- demonstrate self-confidence and initiative

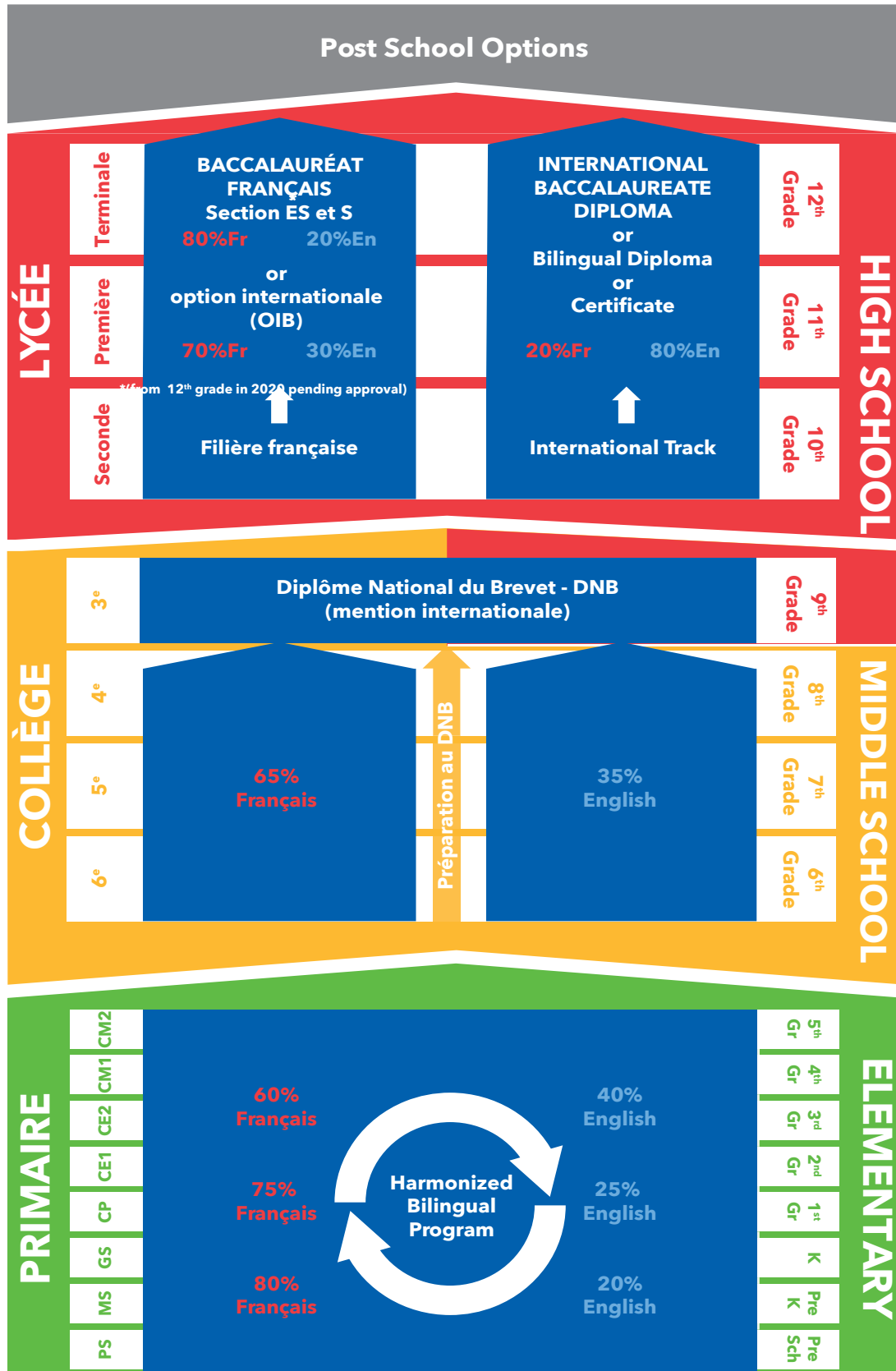
## Involved Citizens who:

- develop a sense of human values such as democracy, respect for others, justice, etc.
- respect others and understand different cultural values
- use cultural differences to enrich personal development
- show self-esteem, are conscious of their rights and responsibilities
- exhibit good manners
- appreciate working for others
- have a feel for their role as human beings and as citizens of the world

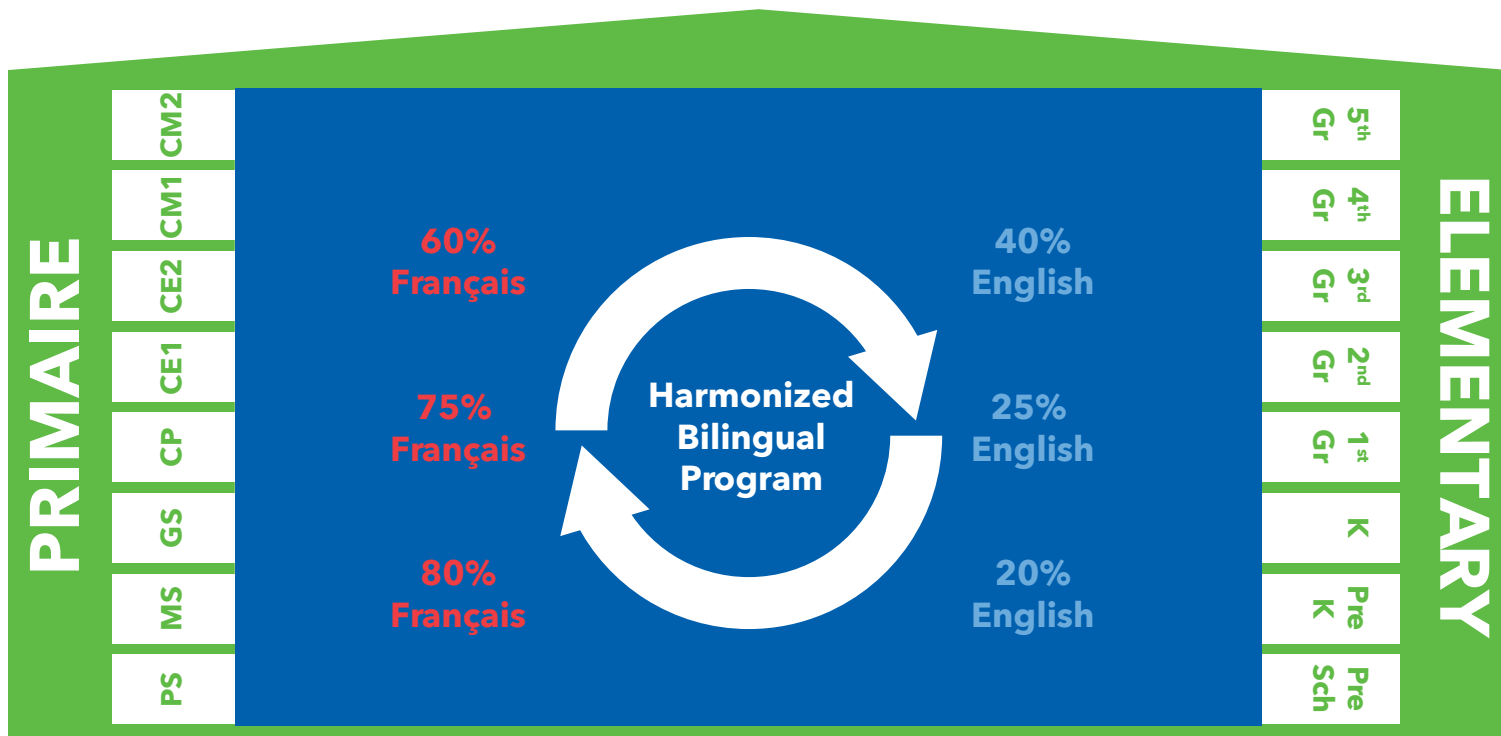


# Whole School Curriculum

The School's curriculum is a bilingual journey for the child, with a carefully composed trajectory in both languages. At the end of this journey, students are bilingual and bicultural, manipulating concepts and transferring skills with ease in French and English. By the time they graduate, most of our students also master a third language or more.



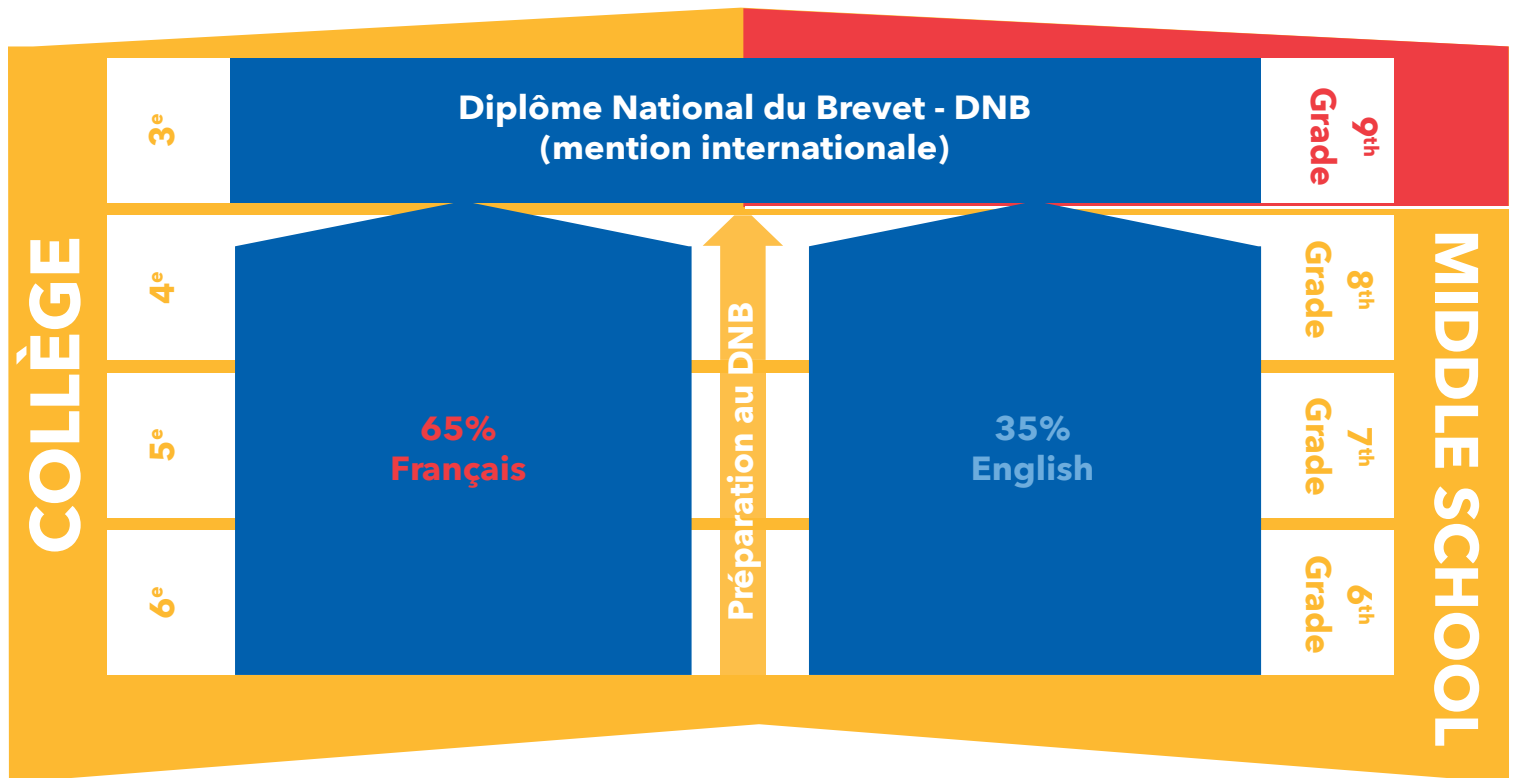
# Elementary / Primaire



At the preschool and pre-kindergarten level, children are placed in a typical French classroom situation whether they speak French fluently or not, with one period of the day devoted to oral language development in English. In kindergarten, English instruction focuses on reading. From this grade on, the percentage of English in the curriculum will increase from 20% to 40% in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. All elementary students benefit from a weekly bilingual hour in which they interact with their French and English teachers in both languages simultaneously.



# Middle School / Collège

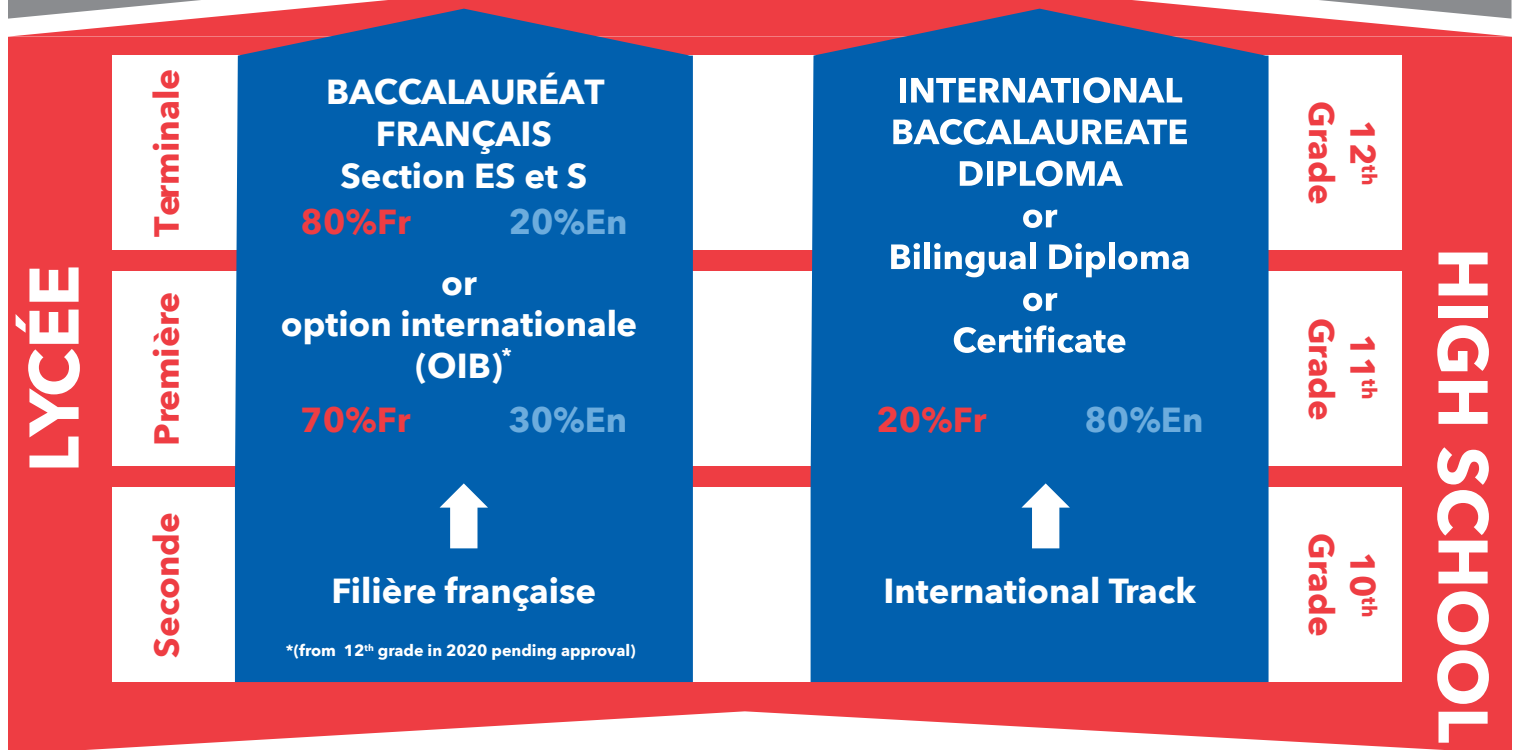


Our middle school covers 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, congruent with the French framework. Our middle school curriculum, delivered 2/3<sup>rd</sup> in French and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> in English, prepares students for their first official French diploma, the *Diplôme National du Brevet*, at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Starting in June 2017, the International School of Los Angeles will be the first school in North America to offer the *Brevet mention internationale*, a version of the French credential that recognizes the students' bilingualism by offering some exams in English (History-Geography and English Literature).



# High School / Lycée

## Post School Options



In high school, students can opt for the French *Baccalauréat* or the International Baccalaureate.

Students that select the French *Baccalauréat* spend 80% of their learning time in French, while this balance is reversed for International Baccalaureate students.

Pending approval, the School will begin offering the *Option Internationale du Baccalauréat (OIB)* in 2017-2018 for our first cohort choosing this option. The OIB officially recognizes our French Bac students' bilingualism.

In the International Baccalaureate, students who elect to take both languages at the mother tongue level receive the bilingual diploma which recognizes their bilingualism.





# Elementary Academics: The French Program



## The French program

The organization of schooling in the French elementary system is presented in three cycles. Cycle 1 encompasses preschool through kindergarten, and is called the Early Learning Cycle (*Cycle des Apprentissages Premiers*). Cycle 2 includes 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and is called the Fundamental Learning Cycle (*Cycle des Apprentissages Fondamentaux*). Cycle 3 from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade is the Consolidation Cycle (*Cycle de Consolidation*). In the cycle system, students have until the end of each learning cycle (3 years) to master the required skills for each subject or group of subjects. The elementary school program forms a coherent and continuous entity with the lower secondary school within the framework of the Common Framework of Knowledge and Skills (*Socle Commun*). Generally, the *Socle Commun* is centered on the content which must be mastered by students.

## Overview of elementary cycles:

### Cycle 1: Early Learning (Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten)



The ultimate goal of Cycle 1 is to help every child to become independent, in accordance with defined procedures, and to allow them to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed



in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The Cycle 1 program organizes learning into five domains essential to the development of the child. They include: mobilize the language in all its forms; act, express oneself, and understand in physical activity; act, express oneself, and understand in art; construct the first tools to organize one's thoughts; and explore the world.

### **Cycle 2: Fundamental Learning (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)**



During Cycle 2, students build fundamental skills and elementary knowledge including: speaking, reading, writing, and problem solving. Students acquire written and oral language naturally following the program of kindergarten. Mathematics skills are introduced and reinforced.

In Cycle 2, instruction in French includes: French, Mathematics, Physical Education, Art, Music, and Moral and Civic Education.

### **Cycle 3: Consolidation Cycle (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades)**



During Cycle 3, students strengthen fundamental skills and explore other subject areas in-depth.

In 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, instruction in French includes: French, Mathematics, Physical Education, History/Geography, Art/Art History, Science, Technology, Music, and Moral and Civic Education.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Cycle 3 continues as part of our Secondary Academics in middle school.

# Elementary Academics: The English Program



## The English Program

English studies at the International School of Los Angeles are designed to build a strong yet dynamic foundation in oral and written expression. Teachers engage students through a variety of experiences, integrating learning across disciplines to help students make the vital connections that encourage the transfer of knowledge between languages and complement our French program.

The Academic Team developed a new scope and sequence for the elementary English program to deliver essential outcomes in reduced class time while meeting the learning needs of students in our bilingual context. Our vertically aligned mission-based framework for the English curriculum prepares students for the rigors of our secondary, International Baccalaureate and French *baccalauréat* program. During the 2016-16 school year, the Academic Team will

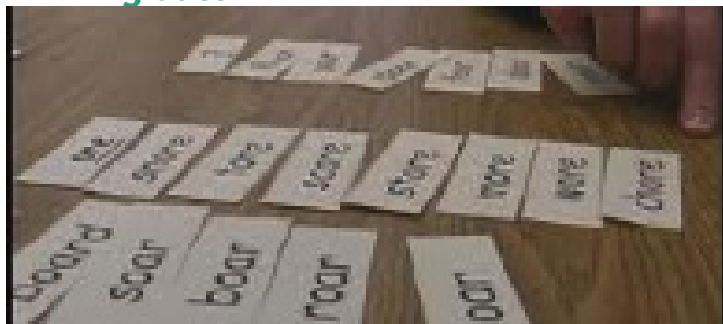
undertake a horizontal alignment to harmonize our French and English programs in order to optimize class time in both languages, avoid redundancy, and fulfill all required skills and subject matter, whether in English or French.

### Preschool/Pre-K/K

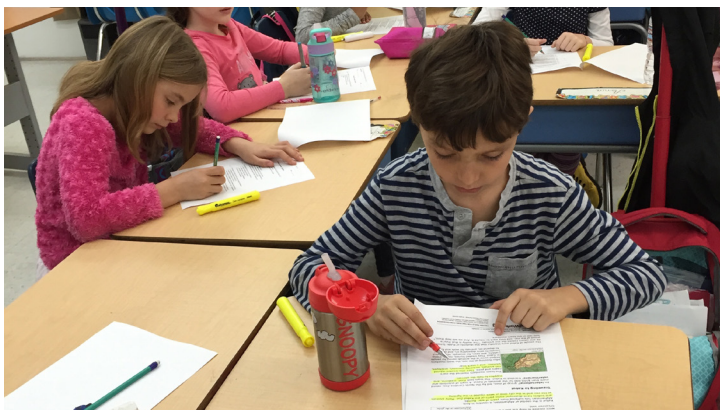


The preschool program focuses on oral language development, phonemic awareness, and early literacy skills, while kindergarten instruction

## 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> grades



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



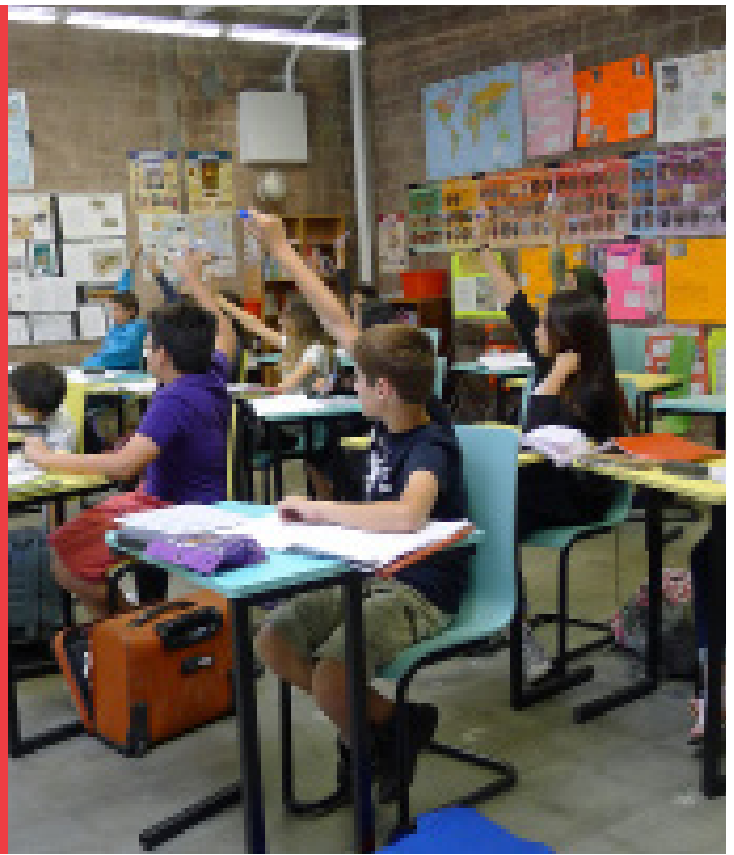
## 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Moving into the upper grades, students use acquired knowledge to organize their learning and build upon it through reading, writing, and research. They continue to practice basic skills and use literature to develop critical thinking and language skills. They develop their writing through the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing). With the help of their teachers and families, they increase autonomy and self-discipline, and solidify skills to build a strong foundation for secondary school.



# Secondary Academics: Middle School & High School



## Middle School

### 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Middle school is a time when students must put to use the knowledge and skills mastered in elementary school. Ranging from art to physics, math to languages, the program is demanding and requires serious commitment. We offer US math, history and geography, and music in English to complement the French program and better prepare our students for the expectations of high school.

The freshman academic program allows all students to take the *diplôme national du brevet* (DNB), compulsory French written and oral examinations that cover all subjects and skills that students are expected to have mastered by the end of Cycle 4. The International School of Los Angeles is the only school in North America to offer the *Section Internationale Américaine* of the French curriculum, an official recognition by

the French Ministry of Education of the bilingual nature of its program. This ultimately leads to the International version of the French *diplôme national du brevet mention internationale* (DNB-I) in 9<sup>th</sup> grade (first exams in June 2017).

In middle school, subjects studied in French include: French, Mathematics, History/ Geography\*, Sciences (Biology/Geology, Physics, Chemistry), Technology & Skills, PE, Art and Media Education. Subjects studied in English include: English Language Arts, US Math, History/ Geography\* and Music. Students also study a third language.

In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, in addition to the above, students also study US Government in English.

\*studied in both languages

# High School

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Upon entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade, students choose either the “international” or “pre-French Bac” section. The language of instruction is dependent on the credential students will pursue. The curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning differ and are adapted to build the specific skills needed in each program.

In 10<sup>th</sup> grade, students take AP French Language & Culture. We also offer the opportunity to sit the *diplôme d’enseignement de langue française* (DELF) B2 exam in French. The DELF recognizes the students’ level in French.

## 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Students formally apply to, and enroll in, either the International Baccalaureate Diploma program or the French *Baccalauréat* program. All students also fulfill the UC A-G requirements for high school graduation and university entrance.

Many baccalaureate courses are considered as honors, and meet or exceed the standards of AP classes. Being multilingual, many of our students nonetheless elect to take 3 AP exams (English, French, and Spanish) and become AP scholars.



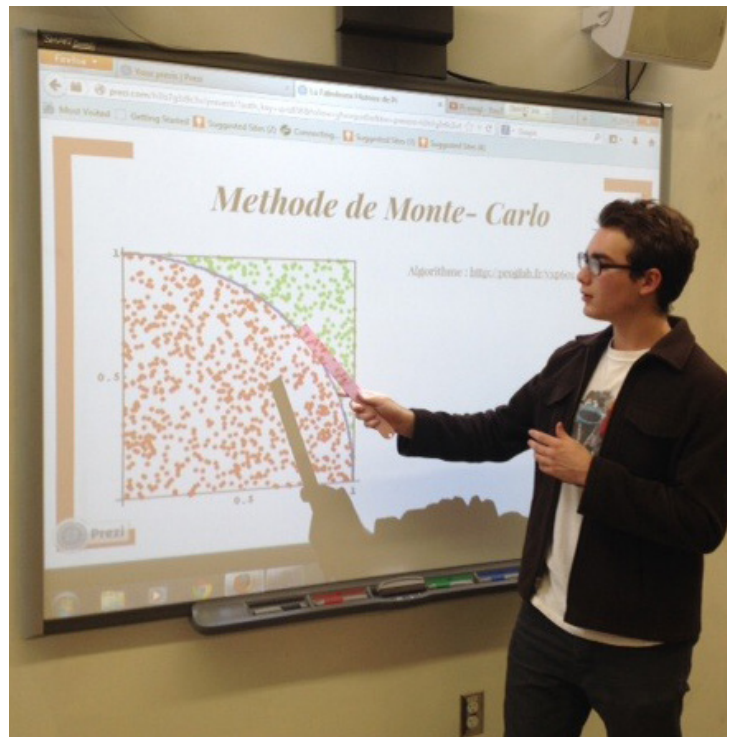
# Secondary Academics: The French *Baccalauréat* (FB)

## French *Baccalauréat* (FB)

The School offers two sections of the *Baccalauréat général*, Scientific and Economics/ Social Sciences, within which the following courses are offered: French, English, Mathematics, Biology/Geology, Physics/ Chemistry, Economics, Philosophy, History/ Geography, an additional modern Foreign Language and Physical Education.

### The Scientific Section (S)

The scientific section aims to develop both acquisition of fundamental scientific knowledge and conscious citizenship. Students develop critical thinking processes through research and practical application. They learn the use of appropriate observation techniques, description, report writing, conception and execution of experimental protocols, analysis, and results evaluation.





## The Economics and Social Sciences Section (ES)

This section is multidisciplinary in nature, integrating the socio-economic environment to contemporary issues, within a historical, geographical, mathematical, linguistic and cultural context. Its objective is to develop knowledge and comprehension of current economies and societies, thus helping students become responsible citizens while developing their critical thinking skills and curiosity.



# Secondary Academics: The International Baccalaureate (IB)

## The International Baccalaureate (IB)

The International Baccalaureate is a comprehensive two-year curriculum which promotes student autonomy, independent research, and a rich, post-modern educational environment. The Diploma Program consists of six academic areas surrounding a core of diploma requirements. All IB Diploma students also take Theory of Knowledge two hours a week, have CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) built into their timetable, and have adequate time to engage in research for their 4000-word Extended Essay.



The program demands 3 courses at Higher Level (HL), 3 at Standard Level (SL), and offers specializations in sciences, arts, or languages. Most of our students opt for two group 1 languages (English A and French A), receiving the highly sought-after IB bilingual diploma.

IB course options offered at our school are as follows:

- English A Literature HL or SL
- French A Language & Literature HL or SL
- French B HL or SL and French Ab Initio
- Spanish B HL or SL
- History HL or SL
- Mathematics HL, SL or Math Studies
- Biology HL or SL
- Chemistry HL or SL
- Physics HL or SL
- Visual Arts HL or SL
- Music HL or SL

Students may also follow online IB courses in the following subjects:

- Spanish Ab Initio
- Mandarin Ab Initio
- Economics HL or SL
- Business & Management HL or SL
- Film SL
- Philosophy HL or SL
- Psychology HL or SL
- Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) SL





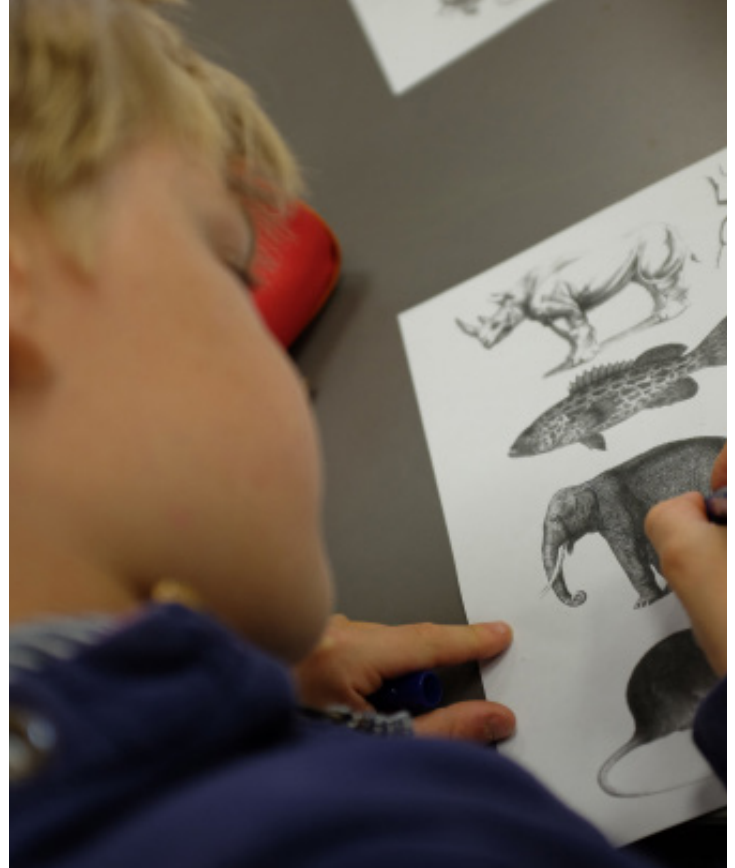
## Reporting

We regularly report on our students' level of achievement, in order to inform families of their child's progress, and to allow external bodies to evaluate their performance. In elementary, three report cards are created during a year, which are handed to parents during parent-teacher conferences. The elementary report cards focus on skill acquisition. In secondary, two report cards are sent home every year, with two extra progress reports per semester. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students also have the responsibility of hosting a student-led conference for their parents every year, allowing them to take ownership of their learning.



## Assessment

Assessment is the process of gathering information about what students understand and their various abilities within each subject. Through assessment, we measure achievement and improve learning by helping students to understand what they know and how they can progress. In collecting this information, we are able to compile the students' attainment and progress in regular reports. Beyond classroom assessment, the School offers a range of collective and external assessment along the students' journey, within a consistent framework encompassing our students' bilingual experience.



# Assessment framework

Grade	French Evaluation		English Evaluation	Language Learner Assessment	
	Diagnostic	Summative		French	English (ESL only)
Preschool/PS					
Pre-K/MS					
Kindergarten/GS		Internal Exams in May/June (reading & math)			
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade /CP					Cambridge Young Learners Test - YLTE*
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade/CE1				DELTA Prim A1	YLTE*
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade/CE2	MEN Evaluation in September (1 week)		MAP		YLTE*
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade/CM1			MAP		YLTE*
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade/CM2			MAP	DELTA: A2	YLTE*
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade/6 <sup>e</sup>			MAP		
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade/5 <sup>e</sup>			MAP		
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade/4 <sup>e</sup>			MAP	DELTA: B1	
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade/3 <sup>e</sup>		DNB/DNB-I	PSAT 8-9 / ACT Aspire		
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade/2 <sup>nde</sup>			AP French PSAT NMSQ / ACT Aspire	DELTA: B2	
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade/1 <sup>ère</sup>		<i>Epreuves Anticipées Baccalauréat</i>	AP English / Spanish SAT / ACT		
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade/Term.		<i>Baccalauréat</i>	IB Diploma SAT / ACT		

\* starting 2016-2017

# Pedagogical Projects

The regular in-class curriculum is complemented and enriched by a vast array of pedagogical projects, aimed at allowing students to express themselves using various skills. The list below is non-exhaustive.

## Read Across America (Elementary)

This national tradition takes place on Dr. Seuss's birthday and is intended to promote literacy and the love of reading for students of all ages. Reading activities take place in both languages throughout the day and include: student book talks, parent read-alouds, visits from guest authors, a reading picnic, and class presentations in character (costume). Teachers also lead by example!



## Winterfest (Elementary)

Winterfest is a campus-wide student show, featuring an artistic class performance for every grade. It is also an opportunity to showcase our student's bilingualism. Students prepare the performance in their class, conceptualizing costumes / props / decorations with their teacher, creating scenes and characters, and making sure parents will have a great experience when they come to enjoy the show during the last week before the winter break.



## Le Festival Littéraire (Literary Festival)

*Le Festival Littéraire* is a series of events to promote reading and literature. Students from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade participate in reading games and contests to facilitate exchanges, and communicate about their reading. The aim is to create a true culture of literary curiosity around books.





### Writing to Share (Elementary)

Writing to Share is a collective project occurring several times per year. It requires that students in all grades prepare a written piece in both English and French, with appropriate visuals, to share at a designated time with their peers.

### Cross Country Race

Every year in April, our students from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade participate in the crosscountry race in Griffith Park. This is a great opportunity to compete and exercise in the open.

### Artist in Residence (Elementary)

Annually, our School welcomes guest artists who rotate among the various campuses to interact, mentor, and provide hands-on artistic lessons with the students. These artists work with students during class time and students participate in the creation of a campus-specific project.

### Course aux Nombres / Numbers Race (Elementary)

*La Course aux Nombres* is a math contest to promote reflection and mental math skills without using a calculator. Students from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade work in a limited time to solve 20 short compulsory questions. The aim is to emphasize basic skills at each level and to show students they can succeed even if they are not using a calculator.

### Concours de Nouvelles / Short Story Contest (Secondary)

Every year the School participates in contests organized by the *Mission Laïque Française*. Students from 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will elect to write a short story based either on an image, or on a sentence from Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.



Mileece Peetre Eco-Dome, Los Feliz Campus



# Field Trips

Learning also takes place outside of the classroom. Day trips and overnight trips help us reach our expected school-wide learning results (ESLRs). During these experiences, our students have contextual opportunities to become active learners, literate individuals, and involved citizens.

## Day trips:

Starting in pre-school, students participate in an array of day trips to local museums, theaters, concert halls, cultural institutions, and service opportunities.

## Overnight Trips:

The school is also developing a consistent framework of local, national, and international overnight field trips.

## Framework for overnight field trips:



GRADE LEVEL	OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade - all elementary campuses	Ocean Institute
K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Pasadena campus	Joshua Tree National Park, California
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade - all elementary campuses	Paris, France
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank, Orange County campuses	Catalina Island, California
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank, Orange County campuses	Red Rock Canyon State Park, California
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank campus	Local Service Trip
Middle School - Burbank campus	Taiwan European School Exchange (every other year)
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank campus	Lyon, France (starting in 2016)
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank campus	Washington, DC Close Up
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank Campus	Joshua Tree & 11-IB CAS Trip
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Burbank campus	Costa Rica



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