

LA PETITE ECOLE

La Petite Ecole offers native-speaking teachers who fulfill the French-based curriculum promoting at the same time the French culture and the development of life values within our international community.

The goal of the French curriculum is to develop analysis, reasoning and critical thinking through incremental acquisition of rigorous writing skills and broad academic knowledge at each level. Our dual-language program based on early immersion reinforces these skills.

La Petite Ecole and its teachers are overseen by the French Ministry of Education with inspectors visiting our school to control the curriculum, the qualifications of the teachers and the every day operation of the school.

CURRICULUM

The French Ministry of Education divides preschool and elementary school into three cycles of education (ranging from ages 2 to 11).

Cycle	Cycle 1: First learning		Cycle 2: Basic learning			Cycle 3: In-depth learning		
Age	2-3	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11
Grade	Preschool	Jr. Kinder	Kindergarten	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Level	Preschool	Kindergarten		Elementary School				

Organizing schooling into cycles provides the necessary flexibility to accommodate children's diversity, abilities and rate of development. All students do not progress at the same rate in all subject areas. Creating cycles allow children to be stimulated and challenged. Teachers can better evaluate their knowledge and their work habits. As is common in France, some classes at La Petite Ecole might be organized by cycle rather than grade, resulting in split or combined classes. Our class structure is adapted to our enrollment patterns and to what works best for the students involved.

Each cycle of learning has an evaluation report; students work on the same concepts within the entire cycle and have that entire cycle of time to master the concepts before moving on. This evaluation report is shared with the parents twice a year in Preschool and 3 times per year for all other grades. At the same time, student progress is discussed during parent-teacher conferences.

Field trips are a part of our program and are always a reason to reaffirm or to concretize a theory or abstract concept studied in class. They are planned with a learning process established before, during and after each field trip.

In Preschool, children are fully immersed in the French language with a teacher/student ratio of 1 to 6. In Kindergarten, the teacher/student ratio is 1 to 12 and students have 45 minutes of English every day taught by a certified English teacher. At the Elementary level, the teacher/student ratio is 1 to 15 and students have one hour of English per day. Spanish is also introduced in 3rd grade.

CYCLE 1: First learning

PRESCHOOL

(Toute Petite & Petite Section de Maternelle):

This is a full French immersion program for 2 and 3 yr. olds.

The program focuses on:

- Socialization: school life
- Behavior towards learning
- French oral language
- Early literacy
- Handwriting and fine motor skills
- Mathematics
- Time and space concepts
- Gross motor skills

JUNIOR KINDERGARDEN

(Moyenne Section de Maternelle)

The 4 yr. old students follow a French immersion program with the addition of 45 minutes of English language arts each day.

The program focuses on:

- Behavior towards learning
- Fine motor skills
- Physical abilities
- World discovery
- Early literacy
- French oral language Mathematics
- Time and space concepts
- English language art

CYCLE 2: Basic learning

KINDERGARTEN

(Grande Section de Maternelle)

The 5 yr. old students follow a French immersion program with the addition of 45 minutes of English language arts each day.

The program focuses on:

- Behavior towards learning
- Handwriting and drawing
- Physical activities and music
- Nature and science
- Early literacy
- French language arts
- Mathematics
- Time and space concepts
- English language art

1st and 2nd GRADES

(CP & CE1)

The 6 and 7 yr. old students follow a French immersion program with 60 minutes of English language arts each day.

French: Oral language exercises
Reading
Writing
Poetic use of the language

Necessary knowledge to master speaking, reading and writing

Mathematics:

- Numbers and arithmetic
- Geometry
- Measurements

Discovering the World:

- Space and diversity of landscapes
- Times in our lives
- The world of matter and objects
- Computers and the Internet
- The basic concept of life

Civics:

- Living together
- Becoming a responsible citizen

The Arts:

- Musical education
- Artistic activities: different techniques, material or support
- Visiting museums, galleries and expositions

Physical Education:

- Adapting effort
- Mastering athletic skills
- Following rules
- Working as a team

English Language Arts:

- Necessary knowledge to master speaking, writing and reading
- Social studies

Cycle 3: In-depth learning

3rd, 4th and 5th GRADES
(CE2, CM1 & CM2)

Students follow a French immersion program with 60 minutes of English language arts each day and 120 minutes of Spanish per week.

French: Practicing oral skills
Reading
Writing
Poetic use of the language
Necessary knowledge to master speaking, writing and reading

Mathematics:
Numbers and arithmetic
Geometry
Measurements

Science and Technology:
Unity and diversity of the living world
The human body and health education
The earth and the sky
Matter and energy
Technological objects and creation
Computer sciences

History and Geography:
History: significant periods throughout an evolving European and world context
Geography: global, America/Europe, France and local

Civics: From school to society: becoming a responsible citizen
Rights and duties in society

The Arts: Music: vocal, physical and instrumental activities
Artistic activities: applied arts, cultural contribution, and assessment of results
Theater, drama and dance
Pictures

Physical Education:
Sports
Mastering athletic skills (games, gymnastics, swimming, etc.)
Group activities, playing different roles
Self-control, managing effort, taking risks, and helping resolve problems

English Language Arts:
Necessary knowledge to master speaking, writing and reading
Social studies

Spanish Language Arts:
Necessary knowledge to master speaking, writing and reading