

**International High School of French-American International School Profile 2015-2016**

CEEB Code: 052943

School website: [www.internationalsf.org](http://www.internationalsf.org)

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**Our School**

The International High School of French American International School is an independent, coeducational school established in 1962 in the heart of urban San Francisco. A belief in the value of diversity is a keystone of our mission statement, and we consequently serve a richly diverse student population drawn primarily from San Francisco and the wider Bay Area, including a variety of international students. Our school is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the French Ministry of Education (MEN), the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), the International Baccalaureate Organization, and we are one of only seven schools in the United States accredited by the Council of International Schools. **The high school has a population of 361 students, with 72 students in the Class of 2016. Of those 72 students, 54 are in the International Baccalaureate Diploma program (22 are striving for the IB bilingual diploma), and 18 are enrolled in the French Baccalaureate Diploma program.**

**Our Programs**

International offers the full International Baccalaureate diploma, including the bilingual option, as well as French Baccalaureate S (Science/Math emphasis), ES (Economics and Social Sciences emphasis), and the International Option (OIB). Please refer to the charts below for an overview of these programs. Our school is the first west of the Mississippi to offer the IB Diploma program. Our students in the IB are full IB Diploma students, and many of those are bilingual diploma candidates. **Unlike at many schools that offer the IB program, our IB standard level courses (240 hours of instructional time) are nearly the same length as our IB higher level courses (300 hours), adding to the rigor of our particular IB program.** A subset of our student body (usually about one-third of the class) surmounts the challenge of the French Baccalaureate Diploma, and some of those students also take the extra coursework required of the OIB (IB Higher Level English and an advanced U.S. History course), in addition to extra course work in a specialty, or the arts. Both the International Baccalaureate and the French Baccalaureate offer very rigorous and demanding academic programs during the last two years of high school -- students must study at least two languages (the French Bac requires 3), advanced mathematics, at least one laboratory science (many study 2 or 3), a social science, an additional subject, which may include another language, another science, studio art, theatre art, music or additional social science. In addition, all of our students take challenging philosophy courses as part of the demands of both the IB and French Bac Diploma requirements. Both the IB and French Baccalaureate also require diploma candidates to write research papers in each subject, as well as an extended piece of personally-researched writing in a field of their choice (For IB Students, this requirement is called the Extended Essay, and for French Bac Students, this

requirement is called the travaux personnels encadrés). Students also achieve in public and community service, athletics, and the arts. **In 2015, 98 percent of the graduating class attended a four-year college.**

**Our Faculty**

The faculty is drawn from all over the world. Over 80% of the high school faculty hold masters degrees or higher. All language teachers and teachers of content courses in French must be native speakers. Faculty work closely with students both in and out of the classroom.

**Ranking of Students/GPA**

Because we are a small, intensely rigorous academic environment where nearly 100% go on to four year colleges or universities, and because grade distinctions between students are too slight to be significant, we do not rank our students individually. Our grades are translated into the typical American A+-F scale from the French track grades out of 20 or the International track grades out of 7 according to the following chart:

|                                   |           |         |          |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <u>French Grade</u>               | 20-17     | 16-14   | 13-12    | 11-10   | 9-7     | 6-4     | 3-0     |
| <u>International Grade</u>        | 7         | 6       | 5        | 4       | 3       | 2       | 1/0     |
| <u>Transcript Grade/GPA value</u> | A+ (4.25) | A (4.0) | B+ (3.5) | B (3.0) | C (2.0) | D (1.0) | F (0.0) |

**New Grading Scale Change for French Section Students**

**Our grading scale for both IB and French Baccalaureate students has always been more challenging than at the majority of international schools, adding to the rigor of our particular program.** In 2014, our school decided to adjust the French section grading scale to make an A+ and an A more difficult to achieve. The grading scale in effect last year awarded a student an A+ for a French grade of 15 or above, but that has been adjusted to now require a 17 or above. An A was previously awarded for a 13-14, but now an A is awarded for a French grade of 14-16. Our school made this change to curb grade inflation and to harmonize our grading scale more closely with that of the IB, which had been more challenging for students to achieve an A or A+. When evaluating our students in the French system, please bear in mind that this grading change may affect students' GPA's slightly. A small decline in grades will be attributed to this adjustment in the grading scale, not to a student's declining effort.

**IB, Bac and Brevet Results**

In 2015, 92.3% (60 out of 65) of our IB students were awarded the full IB diploma. Twenty out of 22 of our French Baccalaureate students were awarded a French Baccalaureate diploma, and 15 students received honors designations. All of our grade nine students in the French track passed the Brevet exam, 26 out of 29 with honors.

**Standardized Testing**

| <b>CLASS OF 2016 – 74 STUDENTS</b>      |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>National Merit Program</b>           | Commended Scholars: 6  | Semi-Finalists: 0                          |
| <b>CLASS OF 2015– 87 STUDENTS</b>       |  |  |
| <b>National Merit Program</b>           | Commended Scholars: 12   | Finalists: 2, Nat'l Achievement Scholar: 1 |
| <b>SAT Mean Scores/ACT Mean Scores*</b> | SAT Critical Reading: 655    Math: 642    Writing: 645<br>ACT English: 29.9, Math: 29.4, Reading: 30.3, Science Reasoning: 29.2, Composite: 28.9 |  |

\* These statistics include students whose first language is not English.

**Graduation Requirements:**

All of our students must take **four years** of the following subjects:

- English, Mathematics, Language other than English (all students will achieve a high level of proficiency,

some students study more than one language other than English), Science (all students have taken biology, physics and chemistry), History/Geography or other social sciences classes (U.S. and World History and Geography).

- Additionally, students will also take at least one year of Visual and Performing Arts Classes, as well as Theory of Knowledge or Philosophy.

Our International Baccalaureate and French Baccalaureate course offerings are listed below and are taken over a two-year time span (grade 11 and 12):

| <b>INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE OFFERINGS</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Group 1: Language A1</b><br/>LANGUAGE A1 (HL and SL)<br/>English, French, Spanish Italian, Mandarin, German, Korean*, Russian* &amp; Swedish*<br/>*With external tutors</p>   | <p><b>Group 2: Language A2, Language B</b><br/>LANGUAGE A2<br/>French A2 HL and SL<br/>LANGUAGE B (HL and SL): Spanish, English, French, German,</p> | <p><b>Group 3: Individuals and Societies</b><br/>HISTORY (Europe 20<sup>th</sup> century, HL/SL) <i>Offered in English and in French</i><br/>ECONOMICS (HL and SL) <i>Offered in English only</i><br/>GEOGRAPHY (HL and SL)<br/>PSYCHOLOGY (HL and SL)<br/>BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT</p> |
| <p><b>Group 4: Experimental Sciences</b><br/>BIOLOGY (HL and SL)<br/><i>Offered in English and in French</i><br/>CHEMISTRY (HL and SL)<br/><i>Offered in English only</i><br/>PHYSICS (HL and SL)<br/><i>Offered in English only</i><br/>ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS SL</p>   | <p><b>Group 5: Mathematics</b><br/>MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (SL)<br/>MATHEMATICS (SL)<br/>HIGHER LEVEL MATHEMATICS (HL)</p>                              | <p><b>Group 6: Arts and Electives</b><br/><i>Offered in English only</i><br/>ART/DESIGN (HL and SL)<br/>Film (HL and SL)<br/>MUSIC (HL and SL)<br/>THEATRE ARTS (HL and SL)<br/>THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE</p>  |
| <b>FRENCH BACCALAUREATE COURSE OFFERINGS</b>  |  |  |
| <b>BAC S, Scientific Series</b>   | <b>BAC ES, Economics and Social Sciences Series</b>  |  |
| <p>Like the IB, the French Baccalaureate program is highly demanding, and all French Bac academic courses are considered honors level coursework similar to the IB or AP programs. The Bac S and ES programs have different requirements and a different emphasis. Series ES is designed for students wishing to focus on economics, social sciences and languages. Series S is designed for students wishing to focus on mathematics and the sciences.</p> <p><u>Bac S courses:</u> Bac S biology, Bac S physics/chemistry, Bac S advanced mathematics, French (replaced by philosophy in grade 12), history/geography or OIB (defined below), IB English, third language, TPE, physical education.</p> <p><u>Bac ES courses:</u> Bac ES advanced mathematics, Bac ES economics and social sciences, Bac ES biology, Bac ES physics, French (replaced by philosophy in grade 12), history/geography or OIB (defined below), IB English, third language, TPE, physical education.</p> |  |  |

French Bac students must also select one additional emphasis from the following list: math specialty, physics/chemistry, biology, or economics and social sciences.

Students may choose to do additional coursework in the following:

OIB: International Option to the French Baccalaureate (Advanced U.S. History, IB English HL), designed to highlight a French Bac student's bilingualism and biculturalism

Arts option in either fine arts or theater

### **International High School's Main Extracurricular Offerings**

Our students face the challenge of integrating their passions outside of the classroom with the reality of the rigor of our program. Our school day is quite a bit longer than that of our peer high schools in that our students may not end their school day until after 4 pm. Despite our unusually long school day, our students are deeply involved in the arts, athletics, community service, and a very exciting international travel program which spans the globe.

### **Visual and Performing Arts**

#### **Theater:**

Our school has a very ambitious theater program that produces three major plays a school year: the Fall Play, a large production; the student-directed one act plays which are directed by a small group of 12<sup>th</sup> graders selected for the honor by virtue of their leadership in the department; and the Spring Musical, another large play. Our theater department does not shy away from controversy or adult themes, as exemplified by our recent productions of **Spring Awakening**, **Cabaret**, and **Spamalot**. Our productions also include premieres of original work, including a recent project, **Awaiting Dawn**, which gave our students the chance to collaborate with theater professionals, including renowned French Director Moïse Touré, on the production of an original series of cutting-edge theater pieces. Students involved in our theater department often put in very long hours to reach their goals, but the rewards are great.

#### **Film and Visual Arts:**

Our school has a strong film department, and we often are the only high school to participate in the 48 hour Film Festival, where our film team creates an entire film in a 48 hour time frame. Our students have consistently won awards for their efforts. We also have a dynamic visual arts department, and our students regularly exhibit their work.

#### **Music:**

Many of our students are talented musicians, helped by our school's location near the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco Girls' Chorus, San Francisco Boys' Chorus, and SF Jazz Center. We offer a student orchestra which collaborates with the theater department in playing the music for the school musical as well as performing a wide variety of classical and contemporary music.

### **Athletics**

International competes in the BCL West League and offers tennis, track and field and cross country, basketball, baseball, badminton, volleyball, swimming, and soccer. Over half of the student body is active in athletics, and some students even take on the additional responsibility of playing on two or even three varsity sports teams. Our athletes get out of the classroom later than at other schools, and many athletes need to travel to athletic facilities far away from campus to practice. The dedication of these students is incredibly high. Our teams have had many very successful league-winning seasons, including our Women's basketball team playing in the California state tournament on several occasions.

### **Community Service**

International has a robust community service program, focusing on projects to fulfill the needs of our urban neighborhood as well as projects around the world. Our school has received international awards for its projects involving raising money and building a school in Senegal and working in Ethiopia. We also partner in tutoring students in schools in our neighborhood, bringing students enrichment in the arts and music.

## International Travel Program

Our students are multilingual global citizens, and our school offers them the opportunity to travel the world in a meaningful way. Students can practice their language skills and immerse themselves in the culture of Austria, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, France, Galapagos Islands, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, India, Laos, Peru, Spain, Tahiti, Taiwan, or Senegal.

## College Matriculation 2012-2015

Agnes Scott College (2)  
American University (3)  
Amherst College  
Bard College (4)  
Barnard College (3)  
Bates College  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston University (5)  
Brown University (2)  
California Institute of the Arts  
California Polytechnic State University, SLO  
Carleton College (4)  
Carnegie Mellon University (3)  
Chapman University  
Claremont McKenna College  
Clark University (4)  
Colgate University (3)  
Colorado College (2)  
Columbia University (5)  
Concordia University- Montreal (4)  
Cornell University (5)  
Dartmouth College  
DePaul University  
Dominican University of California  
Drexel University (3)  
Duke University  
Durham University (UK)  
Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (2)  
Emerson College (2)  
Emory University  
Exeter University (UK)  
Fordham University (2)  
Georgetown University (3)  
Harvard University (3)  
Harvey Mudd College  
Haverford College  
Hult International Business School  
Humboldt State University  
Indiana University at Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University (2)  
Kenyon College (2)  
King's College London (4)  
Lawrence University  
Lewis & Clark College (4)  
Loyola Marymount University (2)  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Manhattan College  
McGill University (9)  
Merritt College (2)  
Mills College (2)  
New York University (10)  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University (2)  
Oberlin College (9)  
Occidental College (4)

Pennsylvania State University, University Park  
Pitzer College  
Portland State University  
Princeton University (2)  
Queen Mary, University of London  
Quest University Canada  
Reed College (2)  
Royal Holloway, Univ. London  
San Francisco State University (4)  
Santa Clara University (2)  
Sarah Lawrence College (3)  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Sciences Po-Columbia Univ. Dual BA Program  
Sciences Po Paris  
Sciences Po Paris - Campus de Poitiers  
Sciences Po Paris- Campus de Reims  
Scripps College  
Seattle University  
Skidmore College (2)  
Smith College (2)  
Sonoma St. University (2)  
St. Lawrence University  
Stanford University (9)  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Syracuse University (2)  
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of  
Science & Art  
The George Washington University  
The University of Arizona  
The University of Texas, Austin (2)  
Tufts University  
Tulane University  
Universidad de Navarra (Spain)  
University of British Columbia (3)  
UC Berkeley (12)  
UC Davis (6)  
UC Irvine (4)  
UC Los Angeles (9)  
UC Riverside (2)  
UC San Diego (2)  
UC Santa Barbara  
UC Santa Cruz (11)  
University of Chicago (5)  
University of Colorado at Boulder (2)  
University of Edinburgh (2)  
University of Leeds  
University of Michigan  
University of New Haven  
University of Oregon (6)  
University of Oxford (UK)  
University of Portland  
University of Rochester (2)  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco (4)  
University of Southern California (2)

University of Warwick  
University of Washington (6)  
Wake Forest University  
Washington University in St. Louis (2)  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University  
Whitman College (3)  
Willamette University  
Yale University