



# **Notre-Dame International** High School Paris

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Daniel Zicari  
Headmaster



## Preparing students for a successful future

Notre-Dame International High School is a day and boarding American international school of the Paris Metropolitan Area in France. The school offers an exciting opportunity to learn the French language and culture while attending an American and international academic program taught in English.

The Notre-Dame International High School mission is to prepare students for professional success in the global community. We equip students with the tools to become lifelong learners by fostering the development of critical thinking and communication skills through inquiry and collaboration as they gain a strong sense of personal and social responsibility. We encourage students to grow in their compassion for others, appreciate and respect other cultures, recognize the value of different viewpoints and work towards a more peaceful world grounded in intercultural understanding.



## NACEL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

The school is a member of the **Nacel International School System** (NISS)'s community of American international schools, aiming to convey its high quality American-internationalized education to other countries, preparing students of all ages for success in an ever-increasing global community.

We strive to develop students' self-awareness, social consciousness, leadership skills and creativity through our curriculum, enrichment activities, and involvement in the arts, clubs, and study abroad

Notre-Dame International High School is a candidate school for the Diploma Programme of the International Baccalaureate (IB). Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programs. These are schools that share a common philosophy -a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education.

By the spring of 2018 our faculty will have completed the process of becoming an IB World School. We plan to introduce the International Baccalaureate diploma programme in the fall of 2018. This two year program will be available to entering eleventh graders with the first IB class graduating in 2020.

The school welcomes local and international students from a variety of backgrounds, with a wide-range of academic and personal goals. More than twenty citizenships are represented at school. Various welfare and accommodation arrangements are available for students who do not have relatives residing in France.

programs. We recognize the importance of giving our students an enjoyable and memorable high school experience, and encourage positive interaction through field trips, sports, and social events. Students are encouraged to take an active role in shaping the culture and climate of their international school, making it a comfortable place to grow and learn.

Notre-Dame International High School is a **college preparatory high school** (Grade 9 to 12) formed and operated in partnership with the French school Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux", and established in 2010. The school was awarded accreditation from:



- the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI),
- the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC),
- and the Southern Association Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), all of which are accreditation divisions of AdvancED.

## AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The school's established graduation requirements correspond to the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) guidelines for college preparatory schools, and meet or exceed the Minnesota State graduation standards. All graduates from Notre-Dame International High School earn a **U.S. High School diploma**.

In addition to the regular American High School curriculum, Notre-Dame International High School gives international students the opportunity to take AP courses\* in various study areas such as:

- AP European History,
- AP Calculus,
- AP Environmental Science
- and AP French\*

*\*This list is updated every year and is subject to change.*

## IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Notre-Dame International High School is a candidate school for the IB Diploma Programme with plans to introduce the International Baccalaureate diploma programme in the fall of 2018. Entering eleventh graders will have the opportunity to join the first IB cohort graduating in 2020. Planned IB courses include the IB core and standard and/

or higher level courses in Language & Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals & Societies, Experimental Sciences and Mathematics. Specific courses will be announced after final authorization is granted. The IB Diploma programme is a 2 year study programme. For more information on the IB diploma programme, please consult: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

## FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

In addition to the American curriculum, the school offers an extensive French language and culture program as well as enrichment courses taught by French teachers. Courses administered by the French school's faculty include:

- French language (from Beginner level up to AP/IB French),
- Art,
- Music,
- and Physical Education.

The school arranges for students to take official French exams, such as the DELF exam, by request.

During school breaks (fall, winter and spring breaks), students are given the opportunity to travel to various towns in France, such as Lyon, Rouen or Montpellier, where they will attend intensive French classes. Placements in French host families are also offered during breaks for further language and culture immersion.



Our students demonstrate proficiency in the school curriculum by:

- Producing high level work that prepares them for higher education or professional life;
- Demonstrating effective problem solving skills in various settings;
- Integrating and applying the knowledge and experience gained in all subject areas;
- Gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information gained from research, prior learning, and different world perspectives.

Students will develop and refine their intercultural thinking skills by:

- Learning to understand the viewpoints of others and allowing this information to shape their own perspective of the world;
- Challenging their personal biases and beliefs through the examination of other worldviews;
- Using knowledge and critical thinking to develop educated positions on topics and issues that will improve their interactions with others.

Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively within an intercultural setting by:

- Improving skills in oral and written language;
- Expressing thoughts and ideas with clarity, purpose, and cultural awareness;
- Recognizing, analyzing, and evaluating various methods of verbal and nonverbal communication;
- Developing mastery of English (or for U.S. students, another world language), to be successful in postsecondary studies. Students will exhibit personal and social responsibility by:
- Practicing personal and academic integrity;

- Accepting, appreciating, and understanding human diversity as it relates to themselves and others;
- Developing cultural skills such as mindfulness, empathy, self reflection, and patience in uncertain situations
- Understanding the impact of their actions and those of others (individuals and groups);
- Appreciating the value of learning and taking an active role in their education.

### **US COLLEGE COUNSELING & ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

The school administers a college preparation course to support and guide upper-level students during the college search and application process. In addition to assisting students in the search for universities and colleges and the admissions process (completing applications, essays, etc.), our college preparation includes writing a resume, considering financial aid and scholarship opportunities, registering and preparing for the SAT and TOEFL.

Notre-Dame International High School is a **SAT test center**.

### **FRENCH UNIVERSITY STUDY**

The U.S. High School diploma is evaluated individually for equivalence with the Baccalaureat (French diploma system) if applying to French universities. Each French University has its own admission criteria for holders of foreign qualifications. The student's French language proficiency level is also taken into account as this is a key factor in the student's ability to excel.



## UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE

Notre-Dame International High School students have been accepted to the following Colleges and Universities:

- American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- American University of Paris, France
- Arizona State University
- Atelier Hourde annee préparatoire aux écoles de création, Paris, France
- Barry University
- Bishop University, Sherbrook, Canada
- Brunel University, London, UK
- Buffalo State College
- Canisius College
- Caucasus Business School of Georgia, Georgia
- Chicago Institute of Art
- College of Mount St. Vincent, Bronx, NY
- Colorado State
- Coventry University, UK
- Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA
- Drew University
- Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, Switzerland
- Ekonomski fakultet – Zagreb, Croatia
- Elena- UK
- ESSEC, Singapore
- Eugene Lang
- European University of Barcelona, Spain
- Faculté des Métiers, Evry, France
- Faculty of Law-University of Belgrade, Serbia
- Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad, Serbia
- Fordham University
- Franklin and Marshall
- Free University of Georgia, Georgia
- Houston Community College, Texas
- Hult International Business School London, UK
- IESEG (Business School), Lille, France
- IFC Marseille, France
- INSEEC, Paris, France
- Institut Formation Conseil, Marseille, France
- International Fashion Academy
- IPAG, Paris, France
- ITAM, Mexico City, Mexico
- Kaplan International College London, UK
- Kings College Foundation, Bournemouth, UK
- Kings College London, UK
- Lewis and Clark
- London Metropolitan University, UK
- London South Bank University, London, UK
- Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus)
- LSBF (London School of Business and Finance), UK
- Manhattan College, New York, NY
- Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Marymount School of New York, NY
- MGIMO University Moscow, Russia
- Mt. Allison, New Brunswick, Canada
- Northampton University, UK
- Pace University, New York, NY
- Parsons New York
- Parsons Paris- the New School for Design, Paris, France
- Penn State Erie
- Penn State University - Abington/University Park
- Regent American College London (member of the Webster University network), UK
- Richmond American University, London, UK
- Russian State Medical University, Russia
- San Diego University
- San Jose State University
- Santa Barbara University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Schiller University, Paris
- School Of Visual Arts NYC
- St John's University, Queens, NY
- SUNY Fredonia
- Tbilisi Teaching University, Georgia
- Texas A&M University
- Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Tabasco, Mexico
- University of Arizona
- University of Birmingham, UK
- University of Bristol, UK
- University of California-Davis
- University of California-Santa Cruz
- University of Colorado
- University of Derby, UK
- University of East Anglia
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Florida
- University of Kent, UK
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- University of Roehampton, London, England
- University of San Francisco
- University of Sheffield's Law School
- University of South Florida
- University of St Thomas
- University of Warwick, UK
- UPenn- Wharton School of Business
- Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
- Washington and Jefferson
- Webster University, Vienna, Austria



Notre-Dame International High School is located on the campus of the French school Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” (NDLO). The educational mission of Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” is “Grow up Together”. The goal is to prepare students to become autonomous and responsible adults. Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” creates an environment for community, freedom, purpose, and involvement.

Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” currently offers six sections:

- a Pre School and Kindergarten,
- an Elementary School,
- a Junior High School,
- a General and Technical Secondary School,
- Post-secondary school Technical Degree Programs (Management, International Business, Business, Communications, and Chemistry).
- Notre-Dame International High School



## HISTORY

Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” was established in 1929, on the site of the Château de Verneuil, by the Congregation of Notre Dame. The school is located in the heart of a beautiful, 13 hectare historical park, with gardens and several trees over a century old. The Château de Verneuil has a history going back to the 16th century when it was the residence of a family in the French nobility, until the French Revolution.

The Château was abandoned in the years following the Revolution but was reclaimed by one of its legitimate heirs, Hervé de Tocqueville in 1802. The son of Hervé de Tocqueville, the famous political thinker and historian Alexis de Tocqueville, spent his adolescence at the Château. The Château also welcomed the great French writer, François-René de Chateaubriand, while owned by the Tocqueville family. In 1817, the property was sold and had multiple owners until 1929, when the Château was purchased by the Congregation of Notre Dame.

## SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Verneuil-sur-Seine is located 38 kilometers from Paris city center (35 minutes by public transportation). Located on the River Seine, it is “a town in the countryside”, offering all the facilities of a residential town, the proximity of Paris, as well as a rich natural environment, with parks, gardens, forest, rivers and lakes.

From 1000 inhabitants in 1930, Verneuil has grown to 15 000 inhabitants today. This former village has become a real town close to the Paris city center. The town is “young”, with 57% of the inhabitants under 39 years of age; culture is a must, with a facility dedicated to dance (Espace Maurice Béjart) and regular cultural events. It offers a swimming pool, a skate park, soccer fields, tennis fields and a riding camp, as well as trekking facilities.

Verneuil-sur-Seine is situated in the center of the Yvelines region, home to the famous Palace of Versailles and Thoiry Castle along with prominent businesses such as Bull, Thomson, Grand Marnier, EADS (European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company), Peugeot, Renault, Bouygues, and others.

# SCHOOL FACILITIES

## FACILITIES

The campus of Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” welcomes a large community of approximately 3000 pupils (comprising French students attending the French school curriculum and about 50 international students attending the American curriculum). There are roughly 230 staff members including teachers, administrators and maintenance staff who oversee the students and the school’s facilities and gardens (on a total of 13 hectares of land).

The school completed a major reconstruction project resulting in new and expanded science labs as well as a brand new student cafeteria. The castle itself is undergoing a multi-phase renovation with the purpose of enabling improved access for people with disabilities. A new library/media center and a new wing of dorm rooms opened in the fall of 2017. Since Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux” provides college level education, the school has excellent science and computer labs, with state-of-the-art science instruments.

The facilities offered on campus include:

- Outdoor fields (two soccer fields, two running paths)
- Computer rooms
- Brand new science labs
- Amphitheatre and audiovisual room
- Modernized school libraries
- Arts and Music rooms
- Two indoor gyms for basketball, handball, volleyball, badminton, indoor soccer etc.
- A self-service cafeteria with a kitchen on location, and an open Cafe

## SCHOOL LIFE

Clubs/sports are active in our school. They include clubs that are exclusive to the American school as well as opportunities for involvement in the French school. After-school extracurricular activities change each year but nearly always include:

**Soccer, Model UN, Chess club, Culture club, Choir, Yearbook.**

Our students are invited to be leaders and suggest new clubs or extracurricular activity.

Competitive sports must usually be practised off campus, in local clubs. Eligibility for enrollment is subject to dorm staff and host family approval; not all meeting times may be conducive to dormitory and host family scheduling.



The school offers various arrangements for accommodation and welfare. The choice should be made based on age and maturity of the student. A nurse is available on campus on weekdays; an international health and third party liability insurance covers each student of the school.

## DAY SCHOOL

This option is only suitable for students already living with their parents in Paris city center or close to the school, and who can commute easily each day to school with their parents or by public transportation.

## HOST FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

7 days a week, with full board (includes short breaks, bank holidays, Toussaint Fall, Christmas, Winter & Easter Spring holidays).

The following students should be encouraged to register for the full time host family option:

- students who are coming for a short-term cultural experience- i.e., for one semester or one year;
- students who are interested in pursuing higher education in France and need to improve their French;
- young students: boarding quarters are not available to 14 year olds so these students must choose full time homestay accommodation.

Students choosing this option must be willing to integrate into the host family life, share the everyday life of the host family and become a real member of the host family, not only a guest. Our carefully selected host families live in and around Verneuil-sur-Seine, as well as in neighbouring areas. This is the best way to be fully immersed in the French culture and "art de vivre"! Students should expect to spend their evenings and weekends with their host family.

Outings may be allowed on Saturdays or Sundays, during day time.

## BOARDING ACCOMMODATION (15YO+ STUDENTS ONLY)

Boarding accommodation is offered on a weekly basis, with full board (from Sunday after dinner to Friday afternoon, excluding school holidays), 5 or 7 days a week.

Boarding is suitable for students who wish to share their everyday life with their classmates, enjoy community life and common activities and who are respectful of boarding staff, as well as of the

boarding schedule and rules. They are independent and mature enough to manage their daily life and studies by themselves.

The campus has internet available in the library, classrooms, computer rooms, and labs.

The dorm building offers double rooms, with shared bathrooms. Students who play a musical instrument may have the opportunity for individual lessons with a music teacher. Boarders can use a computer room as well as a TV and leisure room. Laundry services are provided.

### Option 1

**Weekly Boarding only**, 5 days a week, with full board: for students who can return home for weekends, i.e. local students.

### Option 2

**Weekly Boarding**, 5 days a week, with full board + **Weekend Homestay**, with full board. Students move to their host family on weekends. Outings may be allowed on Saturdays or Sundays, during day time.

### Option 3

**Weekly Boarding**, 5 days a week, with full board + **Weekend Boarding**, with half board (**available for 16 YO+ students only**).

Unsupervised evenings and night outings are not allowed and students are fully supervised on Friday and Saturday evenings and nights. Various supervised activities may be offered on evenings at or outside the boarding quarters, including in Paris. Unsupervised free time in Paris on Saturdays and Sundays, in the afternoons.

This accommodation is offered on weekends, excluding school holidays.



# WHY CHOOSE OUR SCHOOL?

## ACADEMIC STRENGTHS

- Graduation opportunities after completion of the U.S. High School curriculum or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (from September 2018);
- Challenging, student-centered course-work focused on developing independent and responsible life-long learners
- Individualized learning through small class sizes;
- Development of critical thinking skills and intercultural learning;
- Bi-cultural and bilingual school staff;
- Long tradition of excellent education and community spirit of the French partner school Notre-Dame “Les Oiseaux”;
- French language support classes and opportunity to study French from Beginner level (A1) up to AP French (B2);
- International student body (more than 20 nationalities represented at school)
- College Board SAT testing center

## LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Proximity to Paris city center (35 minutes by train) with opportunities for sightseeing in Paris and France, discovering French and European culture;
- Safe residential area and exclusive surroundings;
- Beautiful green and wooded campus;
- Efficient and comfortable mix of historical buildings and modern facilities;
- Excellent science and computer labs, up to date science instruments;
- Supervised and modernized 5 and 7 day boarding facilities;
- Placement in local French host families for students with the required French skills;
- Excellent catering facilities on campus;
- Various extracurricular clubs and activities on and off campus.

## ADMISSIONS

The school year runs from early September to the end of June. The fall semester ends late January. The school year includes four breaks of two weeks each (Fall, Christmas, Winter and Spring breaks).

Notre-Dame International High School has a rolling admissions policy with enrollment in September or January, depending on availability. We strongly suggest, however, an early application, especially for students who need a visa to stay and study in France.

Admission is based primarily on the completed student application form which includes a review of previous school records and teacher recommendations. An interview with a member of the staff will also be required. Notre-Dame International High School offers the chance to any prospective applicant to come to school and spend some hours with our students as a shadowing student. Parents and children will also be able to meet with the School Principal or Teachers.

Successful applicants for the International Baccalaureate program will have demonstrated a positive attitude toward learning and a solid work ethic.







**Notre-Dame International High School**

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