

LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER Academic Year 2021-2022

Dear parents,

When I wrote this letter last summer, I never would have imagined that we would be dealing with covid-19 protocols for the entire 2020-2021 academic year. And yet, here we are. The events of the last 18 months have demonstrated that local issues become global issues and vice versa. Now, more than ever, we are united around our mission of preparing our students for success in the global community. The last ten months proved that with a collective purpose and responsibility, we could face the situation and have a successful school year. Before looking ahead to our new academic year, we always reflect and consider the lessons learned and the opportunities for continued progress.

First and foremost, we need to again acknowledge the adaptability, resourcefulness and flexibility of our teachers, students, staff, and host families as we navigated the evolving situation and prepared for any eventuality. Because of everyone's diligence we were able to maintain in-person instruction for all but the two weeks in March when the national government required online classes for all students throughout the whole country.

Congratulations are in order for the class of 2020 and in particular for the students of our second IB diploma programme cohort and our first cohort to sit for the May exams. 100% of these students obtained their IB diplomas with an average of 36 total points. For reference, 24 points are required to obtain the diploma and the maximum possible score is 45. These students, with the support of their teachers, parents and host families maintained their focus in a year full of distractions. We are very proud of all of them.

As we prepare for 2021/2022, we are ready to get back to some semblance of normal for the school community but are prepared to continue to adapt as necessary to the sanitary conditions. We are monitoring closely the visa situation and travel requirements and planning for many new students to join the high school in September. We look forward to working with them on their path to becoming lifelong learners as they join the NDIHS community on its journey of continuous improvement.

We will, of course, have more information to share regarding the start of school at the end of August as the ministry of education communicates their back-to-school requirements and recommendations, but in the meantime there are projects underway at school to improve the facilities. During the summer, the campus construction and renovation projects include: redesigning and resurfacing the main parking lot; replacing the floor of the main gymnasium; and renovating the cafeteria- allowing for more efficient student flow and flexible seating to accommodate changing sanitary protocols.

After 14 years the Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux" community will welcome a new chef d'établissement in August, Guillaume LESAGE. We look forward to working with M. LESAGE as we continue to develop the High School program here at Notre-Dame.

Below you will find some key information about what to expect in the fall. We wish you all a peaceful and safe summer and look forward to meeting our new students in September.

Best regards,

Dan Zicari
Headmaster

NDIHS Important Dates 2021-2022

Thursday, September 2 (from 2:00pm): Move-in day for dormitory students.

Friday, September 3: All students report to school at 8:35am for first day of school/orientation.

Dismissal is at 16:30. Day and Host family students enter through the Saint-Pierre pedestrian gate on the corner of Grande rue and Chemin Vert.

Marking periods: Grades are posted to Managebac regularly throughout the year.

End of Quarter 1 marking period: Friday, November 12

End of Semester 1 marking period: Friday, January 21. Semester 1 report cards sent January 31.

End of Quarter 3 marking period: Friday, April 1

End of Semester 2 (12th grade): Friday, May 20

End of Semester 2 (10th, 11th grade). Wednesday, June 22. Semester 2 report cards sent July 1.

SAT dates:

October 2, 2021 Registration Deadline: September 3, 2021

March 12, 2022 Registration Deadline: February 11, 2022

For questions or registration, visit College Board at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

Vacations: No authorizations for early departures or late returns will be granted.

Toussaint vacation:

Friday, October 22 after 12:30-Monday, November 8, 8:35

Christmas vacation:

Friday, December 17 after 12:30 – Monday, January 3, 8:35

Winter vacation:

Friday, February 18 after 12:30 – Monday, March 7, 8:35

Easter vacation:

Friday, April 22 after 12:30 – Monday, May 9, 8:35*

*IB Year 2 students begin exams on Tuesday, May 3. Details will follow.

Public Holidays (no school):

Wednesday, November 11 (Armistice Day)

Monday, April 18 (Easter Monday)

Thursday-Friday, May 26-27 (Ascension Thursday)

Monday, June 6 (Pentecost)

Health and safety protocols will be updated and communicated at the end of August as per the directives of the French ministry of health and ministry of education.

NDIHS Essential Information

Managebac

Parents and students are assigned login credential to Managebac-our student record-keeping system-during the first week of school. Managebac provides students, parents, and host parents access to information about grades, attendance, schedules, courses and school fees. It also provides access to teacher email accounts to help facilitate communication between the school and parents

Parents are expected to monitor Managebac regularly to keep up-to-date on their child's academic progress. Managebac allows for multiple parent accounts to be created per student. Therefore, both parents and host parents can have their own username and password that is linked to the official parents' email addresses as provided at registration.

Student accounts

The Miscellaneous fee paid on the Nacel invoice covers miscellaneous charges including supplies, library subscriptions, MAP testing, lab and IT fees, and some school and class excursions. Charges may be added throughout the year.

Additional charges may include school, class or club trips, transcript and graduation charges, consumable books and materials, replacements for lost dormitory keys (150€), damaged or lost books, damage to school property, etc. These additional fees are paid directly to the school.

IB exam fees are invoiced at the end of the first semester of IB Year 2 based on exam registration.

No final school reports are provided to students or schools until all fees are paid.

SAT test center

NDIHS is a College Board SAT testing center and will be offering the SAT exams in October and March of the 2021-2022 academic year. The SAT is a standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States and many international universities. Entering twelfth graders interested in US universities should register for the October exam. Eleventh graders are advised to take the exam in the spring. Registration for the SAT exam is done through College Board.

Lunch

Daily lunch in the school cafeteria or at the OPEN cafe (for 11th and 12th graders) is included in the school fees and is accessed via students' canteen cards as per the school rules document. Further information will be provided during orientation.

Dormitory life

Dormitory rooms include a bed, desk, closet, nightstand and sink. Rooms are assigned as singles by dorm staff. Showers and toilets are either ensuite or communal depending on the room assignments.

Communal facilities are assigned in groups of 4 or 5 for sanitation purposes. Dorms are on the 2nd & 3rd floors so plan on climbing stairs to access the dorms.

Electrical appliances (toasters, coffee makers, electric blankets, refrigerators,etc.) are not permitted in bedrooms.

Students are permitted to decorate the walls of their dorm room with posters or pictures but may not use nails or permanent hardware to affix anything to the walls. Patafix is the only adhesive that is permitted for use on dormitory walls.

The dormitory is closed and students are not permitted in the dorms between 8h30 and 17h30 on school days. In the event that a student is sick during the day and cannot attend class, the student must report to the infirmary at the time the dormitories close.

Laundry is done weekly by an outside laundry service for 7-day boarders and dorm students who stay in host families on the weekend. It is not advised to send any very expensive or delicate clothing to the laundry. There is a dry cleaner in town for these items. Neither the school nor laundry service assume responsibility for lost or damaged clothing. Laundry is billed at an average allowable amount of laundry. Students who exceed the allowed amount may be subject to additional fees.

See the Dormitory regulations document for further details.

Internet

The campus has internet available throughout campus. All students must bring a laptop or tablet with installed updated antivirus software.

What to pack

Bring enough clothes (appropriate for school-see handbook) for 2-3 weeks. It will get cold by late October and the temperature in the winter will be as low as 0° Celsius. Refer to Appendix A: Article 2 of the student handbook for information on the dress code.

You may need an adapter for your electronics. France uses TYPE E sockets (230 V, 50 Hz). All electronics must be inspected by the school electrician or dormitory supervisor prior to use in the boarding quarters.

- School backpack
- laptop/tablet (required-with updated anti-virus software)
- pens & pencils
- USB flash drive (minimum 4 GB)
- batteries and adaptor for French plugs for electronic devices
- calculator (TI-82, TI-83+, TI-84, etc)
- copies of important documents
- medication
- musical instrument
- raincoat
- running or training sneakers
- workout clothes (t-shirt, shorts, sweatpants)
- heavier jacket or winter coat
- scarf, hat & gloves
- slippers/flip flops for the shower
- swimsuit
- toiletries
- reusable face masks (3-4 per day)
- hand sanitizer
- umbrella
- bathrobe (required in dorms)

There is a pharmacy and grocery store within walking distance of school.

What NOT to pack

- Linens and bedding (they are provided)
- Very valuable clothing.
- Expensive jewelry, handbags, and other accessories.
- More luggage than you can comfortably transport on your own.
- Hair dryer, curling iron or clothing iron. Foreign electronics are often not compatible in France-even with adapter plugs- and must be purchased locally.
- Travellers' checks. Stores do not accept them and banks will not cash them.

Spending money

Students should be provided with 200-250€ per month in spending money (perhaps more during the vacation periods and the first month for school supplies). Borrowing money from other students or host families is not permitted.

Students should not be provided with an excessive amount of money nor be permitted to make extravagant purchases while at school. All of their basic needs are met while on the program and this will minimize problems with theft.

Opening a local bank account is not an option. Credit cards, or debit cards are the most popular way to manage/obtain funds. Be sure to check with your bank and inform them of your travel plans. Card companies and banks may deactivate your card if they see unusual transactions to your account.

Cell phones

Students must have a cell phone that is able to make and receive local calls during their stay in France.

The following phone providers have reasonable plans:

www.free.fr www.sfr.fr www.orange.fr www.bouyguestelecom.fr

Students will be provided with essential phone numbers during orientation.

Packages, mail, deliveries

Only boarding students are permitted to receive mail at school (see Dormitory Regulations for details). Students in host families or local students must use their local home address for all mail. Mail or packages received for non-boarding students will be returned or refused.

Be aware that items ordered from outside of France or the EU are subject to customs charges that are not typically communicated at the time of the order. Students are frequently caught by surprise when they are issued a customs charge at the time of delivery. These charges can exceed 50% of the cost of the item purchased. Great care should be taken when ordering online.

Travel tips: health and safety

You should take the same common sense safety precautions abroad that you would at home. Be aware of your surroundings, keep your valuables concealed, be prudent around strangers, and heed safety advice from the staff at Notre Dame International High School.

Below are some general tips for staying safe when traveling:

- Photocopy your passport, credit cards, plane tickets, driver's license, and other important documents - leave one copy in your dorm room or with your host family and keep another one with you, separate from the originals.
- On trains, keep bags as close as possible and cell phones out of sight.
- Cell phones must be charged and have service for local calls.
- Make sure someone else always knows your itinerary.
- Don't go anywhere alone.
- Always stay in well-lit and well-traveled places. Don't take shortcuts through alleys or unsafe areas.
- Make sure you can hear what's happening around you, especially if you are on the phone or wearing headphones.
- Stay alert and trust your intuition when you feel you may be in danger. If you feel you may be getting into an uncomfortable situation, try to get to a safe place as soon as possible.