



## **FAQ: Middle School Articulation Process**

### **Is there a cap for 6<sup>th</sup> grade advanced French Speakers?**

We are interested in serving a minimum of 25 students and a maximum of 50 students for the 2016-17 school year.

### **Is there an assessment for the advanced French class?**

Students who have attended a NYC Dual-Language Program previously and/or have French as their home language will be automatically enrolled in the advanced course. Students new to New York City will receive an oral assessment and will be asked to bring two 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing assignments in French.

### **What is specific admission criterion?**

1. List us 1 or 2 on the MS application
2. Attend an open house or tour
3. Receive a score of 7 out of 8 on our collaboration and communication rubric during the group interview that takes place in the Spring
4. Attendance Record

### **Do you have special admission criteria for kids with IEPs?**

The admissions criteria is the same however, a student's disability will not count against them during the group interview. We are 100% an inclusive environment.

### **Does having an IEP preclude one from being in advanced DLP class?**

No. We follow the criteria listed below.

### **In ELA do all students read the same book?**

Students participate in whole-group reading, independent reading, and literature circles. Whole-group reading is a text in which the entire class reads and discusses. Additionally, students are able to choose an independent book that they are interested in and aligned to their DRP (Diagnostic Reading Power) score. Teachers also implement literature circles, which allow students to study the same topic/theme/concept together but reading different books.

For example, in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Perspectives unit students will be reading about the Holocaust to explore identity and race. Students will be assigned 1 out of the 3 available texts to read based on their DRP levels. This will permit for a rich discussion while pushing individual learners.

### **What supports are there for test prep?**

We are not a test prep school however, we do host practice ELA and MS exams in January, provide a 2 week tutorial in March, and hold either an afterschool or weekend test prep session (depending on the cohort) every year.

## **What is specific content/curriculum students cover in 6-8th grades for science, math, social studies?**

MOST NYC schools use either one or a combination of the following:

ELA -

- Engage NY Curriculum (Developed by NYC teachers)
- Expeditionary Learning Resources
- Textbook: Scholastic Codex
- **Teachers College: Reading & Writing Units**

MATH –

- **Engage NY Curriculum (Developed by NYC teachers)**
- Textbook: Pearson's Connected Math Program 3

SCIENCE –

- Textbook: Glencoe
- Textbook: Pearson

SOCIAL STUDIES –

- **NYC Social Studies Scope & Sequence (Developed by NYC teachers)**

At SIS, we use the curricula bolded above in addition to IB curricula, IB textbooks, and Cambridge Press in the Sciences.

Students will have access to the IB Biology curricula in Preparation for the High School Living Environment Regents and IB US History curricula (informed by the NYC Social Studies Scope and Sequence) for the High School US History Regents exam in grade 8.

## **How does the school plan to handle an increased DLP population? Will more teachers be hired?**

The increase of students will mean an increase of Faculty. For example, this year we went from one 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math teachers to two teachers. It is a natural progression.

With our partnership with the French Embassy and FACE Foundation, we will continue to embed the language and culture throughout the school and within the different courses.

## **Is there automatic entry into the high school?**

Yes. Continuing in the high school is strongly recommended to attain dual language proficiency, completion of the MYP, and an IB diploma.

## **Does the high school have a special area of concentration?**

SIS offers a small school environment with an emphasis on cultural studies and communication through the study of language, culinary arts, dance, and fine arts. We prepare students to obtain the IB Diploma which provides access to colleges and universities around the world. Students are expected to create and present a personal project and write a dissertation that will support their IB studies. Students who obtain the Diploma will earn up to 1 year of college credits.

## **Is there a DLP track?**

We do not have a Dual Language track which is why SIS is so unique. All students learn French at their appropriate level when they enter the school. Students who enter the school as beginners will receive French 1 four periods per week with other beginners in addition to a Community Action

Course (CAC) 8 periods per week with advanced speakers where students will practice their French using media design, theatre, and art. In addition to the CAC, advanced speakers will receive four periods of advanced French instruction with other advanced students.

Once students enter Grade 9, proficient speakers who have passed the French LOTE exam will have an opportunity to take an additional Foreign Language.

**How many class periods per day? How many periods per day do students learn French?**

All periods are 45 minutes in length. Students have 10 periods per day inclusive of lunch M-TH and 8 periods per day inclusive of lunch on Fridays'. This is a total of 48 periods per week. 12 out of the 48 periods are in French for both beginner and advanced students.

**How many periods per day do students learn ELA and Math?**

9 periods per week are direct Language and Literature (ELA) instruction and 10 periods per week are math instruction with 1-2 periods of Robotics which is part of the math curricula.

**What are the hours of the school day?**

M-TH: 8:15-4:00pm and Fridays: 8:15-2:35pm. Breakfast is available at 7:30am. The afterschool program runs till 6:00pm.

**What is DELF?**

DELF (A1 and A2) is an internationally recognized diploma awarded by the French ministry of education that certifies a student's French language proficiency. DELF provides a wonderful framework for a language class. Benchmarks reflect excellent language instruction that encompasses speaking, listening, writing, reading as well as a basic understanding of the French culture and history. In June, students have the option of registering at the Alliance Francaise for the DELF exam, which will provide them with a diploma that is valid for life, certifying their French proficiency.

**Do students have off-campus lunch privileges?**

Yes. Parents must sign a consent form. Students are permitted if they demonstrate academic, social, and personal integrity on a consistent basis. Excessive lateness or attendance, poor academics, and personal behavior inconsistent with the IB learner profile may lead to the revocation of off-campus lunch privileges.