

French American International School of Boca Raton

School Structure	/	Organisation de l'école
American Grade <i>Equivalent Américain</i>		French Equivalent <i>Classes Françaises</i>
Kindergarten (K)		<i>Grande Section (GS)</i>
1 st		<i>Cours Préparatoire (CP)</i>
2 nd		Cours Élémentaire 1ere (CE1)
3 rd		Cours Élémentaire 2eme (CE2)

Our academic program is rigorous and challenging. It follows both traditional American and official French curricula. There is an emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving as well as building self-esteem.

Notre programme scolaire est rigoureux et stimulant, tout en adhérent au programme traditionnel Américain ainsi qu'aux directives officielles Françaises. L'accent est mis sur l'esprit critique, la résolution de problèmes et la formation de l'estime de soi.

Curriculum in French *Programme en Français*

French / *Français*

Mathematics/ *Maths*

French History / *Histoire Française*

Geography / *Géographie*

Physical Education / *Gym*

Music / *Musique*

Computers / *Ordinateurs*

Curriculum in English *Programme en Anglais*

English / *Anglais*

Mathematics / *Maths*

American History / *Histoire Américaine*

Science / *Sciences*

Art / *Arts*

Music / *Musique*

Computers / *Ordinateurs*

Elementary School General Information / *Infos générales de l'école*

English Studies

We will be offering several levels of English, including ESL, for each grade. Children will be placed in the level best suited to their needs. With low classroom teacher/student ratios, teachers will be able to develop individualized reading plans.

The English curriculum will be dynamic and challenging, and will adapt itself to each individual. We are well aware that the students will have various language needs and levels. Our teachers will provide a supportive and nurturing environment for the development of language expression of each child.

Through common core standards of the State of Florida, the English curriculum will emphasize American culture, values, theories and traditions. At the same time, being a bicultural and bilingual school, students will also learn the appreciation of diverse cultures. As an international school we will provide the study of Geography in addition to History and Science, a highly beneficial addition to the traditional American curriculum.

In many instances, the two curricula overlap, just as subjects are linked. The teachers will be working together to incorporate the same themes in both languages.

Our English studies will provide a sound foundation in spoken, written and oral expression, allowing students to continue their education in an English-only school or our bilingual program, as we grow.

ESL - Our teachers will be incorporating an intensive ESL (English as a Second Language) support program for children with no prior English. With very small class sizes, these children will be able to remain integrated with the mainstream English class.

Study Hall (Directed Studies) - parents have the option to register their children for a 1 hour period after the school-day to Study Hall. A supervised and tutored homework review session will take place during the After-school program. There is a fee for this service.

Standardized Testing – Tests will be administered in both French and English programs.

The French National Evaluations – required by the French Ministry of National Education is a test administered at the end of 2nd grade (CE1) and mid-year in 5th

grade (CM2). This exam measures students' abilities in regular French and Mathematics.

The Comprehensive Testing Program (ERB) – a nationally administered annual test in the U.S. begins in the 3rd grade, at the beginning of the third term. This test measures academic reasoning and achievement of students in regular English.

Field Trips- classes will have the opportunity for hands-on subject related excursions. Typical trips include visits to museums, Nature preserves/parks, libraries, concerts and theatres. The cost of these trips is incorporated in the tuition bill. We will depend on parent volunteers for transportation and chaperoning.

Report Cards – Parents will receive two reports per year on their child's progress. The level of competence achieved will be reported by a grade and a written observation. The English program will follow the traditional American grading system, while The French program will adhere to its national grading system.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: - will be held twice a year in November and March.

Technology – Both French and English classes will be incorporating computer skills in their various subject areas. The classrooms will be equipped with a number computers and tablets.

Physical Activity- helps develop the body and mind. Our school offers P.E. classes for all ages. We encourage children to build a life-long appreciation of exercise and healthy living. Our P.E. classes will expose children to a variety of physical activities: team sports, yoga, gymnastics and dance. In addition, we feel it is important for children to have adequate breaks from the classroom to run and play outdoors.

The English (American) Curriculum:

Kindergarten - The focus is on expanding the basic language and literacy skills preciously learned in pre-school or at home. Subject matter is broadened and class materials become more complex in the Kindergarten, in order to help construct knowledge.

Pre-reading skills are developed and strengthened by building on phonetic skills (letter-sound relationships) and learning to identify letters with their corresponding sounds. Children are exposed to receptive and expressive vocabulary, listening comprehension, oral language, and motivation to read. They will be exposed to poems, songs, rhymes, informational texts and narrative stories.

The teachers are also there to provide play and interactive instructional activities to promote fine/gross motor skills and development. Our school promotes nurturing as well a challenging academic structure. As of the Kindergarten, children will learn to respect themselves and others, build confidence, be fair, use reasoning to solve problems, work with others and individually. We are committed to promoting social, emotional and academic growth of each child.

The program is designed to help students develop special relationships with other children as well as adults. In the process, they establish independent identities and gain autonomy. Children construct knowledge through observation or manipulation. They learn to verbalize critical judgments based on their experiments. It is our objective to expose them to hands-on experiences and interactive discovery. Oral expression is a major component in this field of activity, which includes discovery of the worlds of Arts, science, math, history and geography.

GRADE 1 –

Reading - In this grade, the emphasis is on learning and reinforcing letter-sound relationships, and on developing comprehension skills, reading fluency and expanding vocabulary. We use a phonics-based reading series for reading instruction. Participation in class discussions, presentations, group story writing and reciting poems are some of the tools used to develop oral skills.

Writing – Elementary editing of grammar and punctuation is introduced. Children will be expected to practice writing in both print and cursive, as cursive is the writing applied in the French curriculum. Writing instruction will include both modeling, shared and individual practice in the fundamentals of written conventions, presentation and expressive skills.

Social Studies and American History - The focus is on learning about the immediate world around us, but emphasizes American culture, history and events. Topics include families, important American holidays, American historical figures, and current events.

Geography - Mapping skills, largely of the North American continent. Will be incorporated in Social Studies and American History. It is vital for children to understand where current and historical events actually took place. And, to have an understanding of where they are in the world relatively to others. As an international school, we emphasize global understanding and perspective and the appreciation of other cultures.

Science – Topics are explored through hands-on experiences, experiments and field visits. Children will cover topics including: animal habitats (the rainforest, the polar regions and deserts), health and nutrition.

Art- Learning basic art terms and defining vocabulary, introduction to the color wheel, and how to use art materials will all be covered in this class. We encourage creativity, risk-taking, critiquing and discussion. Children will begin to be introduced to major artist and their works.

Music – Will be taught in both English and French. This is in order to teach children various songs and pieces from both languages. Students will be taught through various approaches: instrumental, vocal, cultural and music theory. They will be taught to keep a steady beat and execute simple rhythmic patterns on a percussion instrument. The fundamentals of music

will be introduced as well as types of instruments, and major works and their composers.

P.E. - The teacher will plan ball team sports, gym exercises, yoga, and dance routines. The focus is on developing coordination, body awareness and good sportsmanship.

Computers- computer programs and activities, selected by the teacher, will be used to reinforce reading, language, math and other subjects.

GRADE 2 –

Reading – Phonics, decoding skills and vocabulary development are all emphasized in this grade. Reading comprehension built upon and expanded by offering more complex and differentiated content material. Skills such as reading for main idea, detail, understanding and identifying sequence and characters, setting, time and place are developed.

Writing – Our focus will be learning to produce simple complete sentences with correct punctuation and capitalization. The structure of a sentence will also be studied. Children will be taught to identify nouns, pronouns, verbs and adjectives. Students will be guided in organizing related thoughts into short cohesive paragraphs with a topic sentence.

Social Studies and American History - American holidays, customs and traditions will be studied further. The foundation for the American way of life will be analyzed through study of colonial America. We will also be introducing elements of diversity of world cultures. Students will develop an understanding of their relationship to the world around them, through discussion, reading materials and research projects.

Geography- We will deepen mapping skills of the United States and North America, as well as those countries discussed in Social Studies.

Science- There are three topics explored in this program. Students will study animals, comparing their diverse habitats and way of life. They will study the three states of matter and their physical properties: solid, liquid, gas. And, they will explore Air, weather and climate, through observation, manipulation and reading materials.

Art- We will continue to explore color and the color wheel. Basic art terms and vocabulary will be used in conjunction to the students' art projects. More artists and their works will be studied during class discussion and by personal experimentation. Introducing the children to the use and care of art materials and mediums will also be covered.

Music – Will be taught in both English and French. This is in order to teach children various songs and pieces from both languages. Students will be taught through various approaches: instrumental, vocal, cultural and music theory. They will be taught to keep a steady beat and execute simple rhythmic patterns on a percussion instrument. The fundamentals of music will be introduced as well as types of instruments, and major works and their composers.

P.E. - The teacher will plan ball team sports, gym exercises, yoga, and dance routines. The focus is on developing coordination, body awareness and good sportsmanship.

Computers- computer programs and activities, selected by the teacher, will be used to reinforce reading, language, math and other subjects.

GRADE 3 –

Reading – Children work in guided reading groups as well as individually, to develop comprehension skills and strategies. Materials used will be of various length and genre, and differentiated and more complex subjects. A higher level of critical thinking skills, such as predicting outcomes, making inferences and drawing conclusions will be developed. Students will learn to identify the main idea and the supporting details of a paragraph to enhance their comprehension and writing skills.

Writing – At this level, we introduce and practice the writing process through the use of graphic organizers (webs, story maps, outlines, etc.), multiple drafts and editing. Students will be guided at formulating coherent paragraphs, using topic sentences, supporting details, concluding sentences, while also focusing on correct spelling and grammar usage. Sentence structure is further studied and by identifying rules of capitalization and punctuation. Students are exposed to various genres of writing; narratives, summaries, research and book reports, letters and poetry.

Social Studies, American History and Geography –

There is further emphasis on map skills, landforms and the geography of the United States. We integrate Social Studies and Geography in all exploration of American historical events and figures. More historical events and figures are introduced and students begin to research and discuss their contribution to history.

Science - Three units are introduced and explored: magnets, the earth and its changes (rocks, soil, weathering, erosion etc.), and force, motion and stability in a unit on simple machines. In addition to projects, research (book and internet), videos and field trips, the scientific method is introduced as a means of exploring these topics.

Art- Art terms and vocabulary will be broadened and used in conjunction to the students' art projects. More artists and their works will be studied during class discussion and by personal experimentation. Introducing the children to the use and care of art materials and mediums will also be covered. Children are encouraged to develop their own style, by introducing cultural aspects of art and applying it to projects.

Music – Will be taught in both English and French. This is in order to teach children various songs and pieces from both languages. Students will be taught through various approaches: instrumental, vocal, cultural and music theory. They will be taught the notes of the staff and elements of solfege. They continue their study of the fundamentals of music, types of instruments, and major works and their composers.

P.E. - The teacher will plan ball team sports, gym exercises, yoga, and dance routines. The focus is on developing coordination, body awareness and good sportsmanship.

Computers- computer programs and activities, selected by the teacher, will be used to reinforce reading, language, math and other subjects.