



THE FRENCH PROGRAM

International Studies Charter High School
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Website: <https://ischs.net/academics/programme-francais/>

A) About ISCHS

ISCHS is a charter school. Charter schools are public schools that are managed by a private corporation. Therefore, charter schools are not subject to some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter.

Unlike private schools, which can control their own curriculum, charter schools have to implement the curriculum set by the State. Charter schools are non-profit, set their own goals, and manage their own employees.

ISCHS was established in 2004 and provides different curricula for 6th to 12th grade students, including the French program (French International Studies program) .

The French program is a bilingual program that follows the French National Education curriculum for the classes taught in French and the Florida standards or College Board guidelines for the American classes. All classes are Honors classes or AP classes. This dual program requires a great involvement from motivated students.

American System		French System	
Pre K 3	PRESCHOOL	Petite section	MATERNELLE
Pre K		Moyenne section	
Kindergarten	ELEMENTARY	Grande section	PRIMAIRE
1 st grade		CP	
2 nd grade		CE1	
3 rd grade		CE2	
4 th grade		CM1	
5 th grade		CM2	
6 th grade	MIDDLE SCHOOL = JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	6ème	COLLEGE
7 th grade		5ème	
8 th grade		4ème	
9 th grade (freshmen)	(SENIOR) HIGH SCHOOL	3ème	LYCEE
10 th grade (sophomores)		2nde	
11 th grade (juniors)		1ère	
12 th grade (seniors)		Terminale	

B) The French program at ISCHS

The French program is accredited by the French Ministry of Education from 6th grade (6ème) to 12th grade (Terminale). The three majors (“spécialités”) offered for the new Baccalaureate for 11th and 12th grade are: mathematics / economics and social sciences/ history, geography, geopolitics, political science.

a) Schedule

From Monday to Friday:

From 7:30am to 2:30pm- Some classes take place after 2:30pm starting from 8th grade.

Community service in high school:

Students are required to volunteer 100 hours of community service in high school (25 hours per grade level from 9th to 12th). It allows students to better understand the world they are living in and to help them develop a strong sense of dedication to the community. Service hours can be logged by volunteering for non-profit organizations. FIPA (French International Parents Association) is regularly looking for volunteers for its events.

Projects:

The American education system emphasizes the participation of students to projects. They look like “exposés” in France but require more research from students than in the French system. Projects might be related to sciences or language arts or history. They teach students how to work in a team. Projects are always graded and are taken into consideration in the student’s final grade.

b) What subjects are taught in each language?

The core subjects of the French program are taught in French while American subjects are taught in English. American and French methods of teaching and learning are very different. It gives the unique opportunity simultaneously learn two ways of working, which creates multicultural global minds.

Middle school

Grade	Subjects taught in English (Florida standards, AP guidelines)	Subjects taught in French (French National Education curriculum)
6 ^{ème} / 6th grade	English / US History /Science/ ESOL/PE*	Mathématiques/ Français / Histoire Géographie
5 ^{ème} / 7th grade	English/Civics/Science/ESOL/PE*	Mathématiques / Français / Histoire Géographie
4 ^{ème} / 8th grade	English/World History/Science/ ESOL/PE*/Spanish	Mathématiques / Français/ Histoire Géographie

High School

Grade	Subjects taught in English (Florida standards, AP guidelines)	Subjects taught in French (French National Education curriculum)
3 ^{ème} / 9th grade	English/PE-Spanish/ESOL-Intensive Reading*/ Biology	Mathématiques/ Français/ Histoire Géographie /Sciences Physiques-Technologie-SVT
2 ^{nde} / 10th grade	English/ PE-Spanish/ ESOL ou Intensive Reading* or Elective	Mathématiques/Français/Histoire-Géographie/ Sciences Physiques/SVT/SES
1 ^{ère} / 11th grade	English/US History/ESOL ou Intensive Reading* or Elective /Spanish	Français/Histoire-Géographie /Enseignement scientifique/ Spécialités : mathématiques, ses, histoire- géographie/sciences politiques/géopolitique
Terminale / 12th grade	English/US Government (1st semester) /Spanish/PE/ESOL or Intensive Reading* or Elective	Histoire-Géographie + Philosophie+ Enseignement scientifique + 2 spécialités parmi : SES, mathématiques et HG/sciences politiques/géopolitique

- cf § ESOL.

c) **ESOL**

ESOL means English for Speakers of Other Language.

When students, whose native language is not English, enroll in a Miami Dade County public school in the US system, their English language level is tested. They are, then, placed in ESOL class (in addition to the Language Arts class) depending on the outcome of the class.

While in ESOL, students have an increased exposure to English in order to allow them to make fast improvements. Students continue to be tested each year until ESOL studies are no longer necessary. The test is called CELLA. When passing the CELLA test, the student is allowed to get out of the ESOL system.

Nevertheless, because of these extra hours of English studies, **ESOL students may not be able to choose an elective or have a Spanish class.** It is strongly recommended to try to get out of ESOL system as soon as possible.

d) **Majors (spécialités)**

The following majors (spécialités) are the only ones offered in 11th and 12th grade for the French Baccalaureat: mathematics, economic and social science, history -geography/geopolitics/political science

e) **Faculty**

American subjects are taught by American teachers certified by the State of Florida. French subjects are taught by French teachers who can be categorized as shown below:

Teachers certified by the French Ministry of Education and hired locally by the school. Certified by both the State of Florida and France, they have also been trained to be able to teach in an international environment.

Local teachers. Teachers who have been hired by the school and have a French diploma in their field but are not certified by the French Ministry of Education.

A French Program open house is organized at the beginning of every school year for the families of students enrolled in the program. The ISCHS faculty can be contacted by email.

C) French exams and results

a) Grades

Letter grades are used in the American system. Grades can apply to homework, tests or projects presented in school. The grade conversation table below compares the American system to the French system.

Students receive a report progress report in the middle of each quarter and a report card at the end of each quarter. Every student enrolled in the French program also receives a French grade report (bulletin scolaire) at the end of each semester.

The grade point average (GPA) is an important criteria used by American universities in the admissions process. The GPA is calculated by taking the number of grade points a student earned in a given period of time divided by the total number of credits taken.

ANNEXE 1

Lettre	Note /4	Note /20 (6 ^{ème} – 3 ^{ème})	Note /20 (2 nd e – Tale)
A	4.0	20	20
A	3.9	18.8	18.6
A	3.8	17.6	17.2
A	3.7	16.4	15.8
A	3.6	15.2	14.4
A	3.5	14	13
B	3.4	13.65	12.7
B	3.3	13.3	12.4
B	3.2	12.95	12.1
B	3.1	12.6	11.8
B	3.0	12.25	11.5
B	2.9	11.9	11.2
B	2.8	11.55	10.9
B	2.7	11.2	10.6
B	2.6	10.85	10.3
B	2.5	10.5	10
C	2.4	10.2	9.75
C	2.3	9.9	9.5
C	2.2	9.6	9.25
C	2.1	9.3	9
C	2.0	9	8.75
C	1.9	8.7	8.5
C	1.8	8.4	8.25
C	1.7	8.1	8
C	1.6	7.8	7.75
C	1.5	7.5	7.5
D	1.4	7.2	7.1
D	1.3	6.9	6.7
D	1.2	6.6	6.3
D	1.1	6.3	5.9
D	1.0	6	5.5
F	0.9	5.4	4.95
F	0.8	4.8	4.4
F	0.7	4.2	3.85
F	0.6	3.6	3.3
F	0.5	3	2.75
F	0.4	2.4	2.2
F	0.3	1.8	1.65
F	0.2	1.2	1.1
F	0.1	0.6	0.55
F	0	0	0

Parents can monitor their child's grades and attendance through the parent portal of Miami Dade County public Schools (www.dadeschools.net). Parents must request their login and password information from the school administration.

b) French Exams

ISCHS has been an official center of exams since 2011 for: the “Diplôme National du Brevet” (DNB) (end of 9th grade), and the French Bacallaureate (at the end of 11th and 12th grade).

DNB: The “Diplôme National du Brevet” validates the skills acquired during middle school and 9th grade. The written exams take place in June. The oral exam takes place during the spring. All exams are taken in ISCHS.

French Bacallaureate: The new French Bacallaureate exams have been implemented since the 2020 session in 11th grade and the 2021 session in 12th grade.

The Bac results for the past several years are the following:

Résultats au Bac ES	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Passing rate	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%	100%	91%	100%	100%
Honors rate	100%	100%	73%	89%	93%	79%	95%	89%	100%

c) American Exams

SAT and ACT: the SAT and the ACT are usually taken during junior and senior years (1^{ère} and terminale). It can be taken multiple times. SAT or ACT results are requested to apply to US colleges and universities. It is important to review and study intensively before taking the exams.

AP exams: Advanced Placement classes (AP) are University-level classes that students can take in high school. Students take an exam to determine AP credits earned: Passing grades are 3, 4 or 5. AP credits earned are very well considered for the admission in some universities. AP credits can be converted to university credits, which saves time and money.

ISCHS offers the following AP classes for the 2021-2022 school year: AP English language, AP English literature, AP French language, AP US History, AP US Government, AP Calculus AB/BC, AP computer science, AP Biology, AP Macroeconomics, AP European History, AP World History, AP Human Geography, AP Spanish language, AP Spanish literature, AP Italian language, AP Psychology, AP Environmental Science, AP Capstone Seminar.

FSA (Florida State Assessment), EOC (End of Course Exams) : These mandatory tests, taken in every Florida public schools, measure student achievement in reading, writing, mathematics, science, civics and US history. Results are taken into account on the student’s final grade. They are very important to schools and teachers in Florida, since the results are used to grade the schools and the teachers. School grades impact school budgets and teachers’ bonuses.

Warning : A passing score is required for the following exams in order to graduate from

High School: Algebra 1 EOC, FSA language arts 10th grade. A student who does not pass the exam is required to take a mandatory remedial class the following year and retake the exam. In that situation, one intensive English or math class can replace a French class.

IMPORTANT: *If the student joins an American school during Middle or High School he/she might not have the required level or skills to pass these exams. The school provides tutoring in every subject.*

ISCHS is rated an “A” High School and “A” Middle School according to FSA results. Its AP results are 30% above the Florida and US average.

D) After ISCHS

- a) The student leaves ISCHS before 12th grade (Terminale)

Since the student was enrolled in a French National Education accredited program, he/she will automatically be able to transfer into a middle or high school in France or any accredited French school around the world (assuming the student has achieved acceptable grades), by providing the French grade reports that will also mention the American classes followed by the student while at ISCHS.

- b) The student graduates from ISCHS and passes the French Bac

In France, the Baccalaureate is the first diploma of Higher Education and is mandatory, along with the analysis of high school grades, to enroll in universities. In the US and the rest of the World, the prestige of the French Baccalaureate enables students to be awarded university credits for the Bac. Each university has its own policy regarding how many and what type of credits are awarded.

- c) When the student wants to stay in the US

Each college or University has its own admission criteria. SAT or ACT scores will most of the time be required. A minimum score on the TOEFL exam will be required for international students.

d) Where did the French program alumni go?

- NYU
- Sciences Po/ Berkeley (dual diploma)
- Syracuse University
- Hamilton College
- Pace University
- Penn State University
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Manhattan College
- Roanoke College
- University of Florida
- Florida State University
- University of Miami
- Florida Polytechnic University
- Florida International University
- New World School of the Arts
- Miami Dade College Honors, Miami
- Miami Dade College, Miami
- McGill University
- Concordia University
- HEC Montréal
- Université de Montréal
- UQAM
- University of Amsterdam
- Amsterdam University College
- King's College, London
- Geneva School of Economics and Management
- École hôtelière de Lausanne
- ESADE, Barcelona
- CPGE
- Université de Paris Dauphine
- Université d'Aix-Marseille
- Université de Pau
- Audencia Business School, Nantes
- EM Lyon Business School
- EDHEC Business School
- American University of Paris
- École Boule
- EFAP, Bordeaux
- Vatel institute of hospitality management
- Université de Strasbourg
- Faculté de Médecine (Versailles, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Marseille)

E) Registration at ISCHS

IMPORTANT: the student does not have to live in a specific area in order to apply to ISCHS. Please respect the deadline to register indicated on the school's website.

a) Applications

The online application form is available on the main page of school's website, starting early October of each school year. One application form needs to be filled per child.

The entrance test is mandatory for applicants of all programs and all incoming schools. The French program entrance test evaluates students in French and mathematics (in French) for grades 6 to 10. It evaluates English, French and mathematics (in French) for grades 11 and 12. For local applicants, a session is organized early January at ISCHS. For applicants living abroad, the test can be taken in the current school of the student.

b) Admissions during the school year

Please contact the school to verify if there is a spot available in the requested grade level.

c) Tuition fees

ISCHS is a public school. There are no tuition fees. Textbooks are provided by the school.

The program is financed by public funding from the State of Florida. The French program parents association (FIPA) is a key stakeholder in the program's life and its sustainability.

F) Additional Information

1) Good to know...

ISCHS is a small school (approximately 730 students in 2019-2020 with 112 in the French program). Students can easily reach their teachers and create a friendly learning environment with their peers. ISCHS is located in the heart of the historic Cuban district (Calle Ocho) and is centrally located.

Lunch: A catering service delivers lunches every day. The lunch menu is posted online. The lunch break lasts 30 minutes; there is no recess time. Students can also bring their own lunch box.

Clubs: Clubs are a key aspect to the life of American schools. The involvement of students in clubs is greatly appreciated by colleges & universities. There are many clubs at ISCHS, among them NHS, Key Club, Debate club, Film & video games, Chess club, Math (Mu Alpha Theta), Model United Nations, etc.

Bus: There are numerous private bus companies. Ask other parents, FIPA or the school PTSO for contact information.

Uniform: as in most public schools in Florida, students are required to wear a uniform with the school logo embroidered on the shirt.

For more info on what is allowed and on additional school rules, please visit: <http://www.ischs.net/>

2) Q & A

Our son is in 9th grade in ISCHS and we are moving to France next year. What is going to happen?

Since he is coming from an accredited program, he will be eligible to attend 10th grade (Seconde) in a French school next year (providing that he gets promoted to 10th grade). Check the admissions process in the city you are moving to, as most public high schools in France are boundary schools.

We just learned about our transfer to Miami next February. Can our daughter (currently in 10th grade in France) attend ISCHS when we arrive here in February?

Please contact the school to verify if there is a spot available in the requested grade level.

Being enrolled in the French program and taking the Bac, does my daughter have the same opportunity to enter a good American university?

Every American university has its own admissions criteria, among them GPA, SAT/ACT results and AP credits. Many universities also ask for letters of recommendation and take into consideration extra-curricular activities (Clubs, sports, arts, community hours, etc.).

ISCHS French program seniors graduate with a High School Diploma and the French Bac. The French program curriculum is very well known and valued by American schools for its high level of expectation and rigor. The French Bac, and the French Education system are a factor of differentiation towards the other students.

What is the difference between IS & IB?

The French program at ISCHS is the only bilingual French-American curriculum taught in Miami-Dade. French is not considered a foreign language since the French National Education curriculum is taught for the core classes. At the end of the IS program, students hold both the French Bac and an American high school diploma. That allows them to enroll in higher education institutions in the US, Canada, Europe or the rest of the World..

The IB, or "International Baccalaureate", is a full American program in which French is a subject among others (world history, world literature, sciences, math and 1 elective which may vary from one school to another), taught in English. This is also a very rigorous curriculum that is highly appreciated by American universities. French Higher Education institutions do not recognize it.

3) Directory

- * **Ms Alina Lopez**, *Principal*
- * **Ms Emmanuelle Orsi Fisher**, *French Program Director* (frenchis@ischs.net)
- * **Ms Veronica Quintana**, *College Advisor*.
- * **Ms Aliva Mingel**, *High School Counselor*
- * **Ms Daylene Capote**, *Middle School Counselor*

4) French program parents association (FIPA)

FIPA (www.fipamiami.org) was founded more than 30 years ago to support the French education program, when Miami-Dade County Public Schools created bilingual programs.



Since then, FIPA has never stopped supporting the French International Studies Program in five Miami-Dade County Public schools, ISCHS being among them, by leading actions such as:

- Contribute to teacher salaries
- Assistance in the recruitment of teachers from France (travel, visa and living expenses)
- Finance French teachers professional development and certifications
- Purchase books, Ipads and computers
- Organize French activities on and off campus
- Provide authentic cultural experience to our students, families and teachers
- Share community's news, French cultural events and services FIPA needs your continuing support with memberships, donations and volunteering.

Thanks to generous contributions and donations, and the commitment from Miami Dade County Public Schools, FIPA can sustain the excellence of its program. Do not hesitate and join our French International Program Association to support your children's French education.

FIPA representative for ISCHS :

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