



For Immediate Release
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Francis Gianni Begins Tenure as Head of School at FASNY



MAMARONECK, N.Y. – On August 1, 2019, Francis Gianni assumed leadership of the French-American School of New York (FASNY), marking a milestone in the history of the international and bilingual school. In taking the helm, he became FASNY’s sixth head of school, succeeding Joël Peinado, who left in June after 24 years—the last seven as head of school—to become president of International College in Beirut.

A lifelong educator with a career spanning more than 30 years, Mr. Gianni has worked in higher education and N-12 schools in the United States, France, and Monaco. His vast experience in international and bilingual education, proven leadership skills, and warm, engaging personality make him uniquely qualified to lead FASNY in the next phase of its evolution.

Until recently, Mr. Gianni was the director of the International School of Monaco, where he guided the process that produced a comprehensive strategic plan, introduced various curricular and co-curricular programs (Singapore Math, STEAM enrichment, leadership development programs), increased enrollment to 650 students, and spearheaded a new campus project. Prior to that, he led the Lille campus of the École Jeannine Manuel, a UNESCO-affiliated school that is considered one of the most competitive bilingual establishments in France. During his 10 years at Jeannine Manuel, the school enhanced its International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program, began offering the International Option (OIB) of the French baccalaureate, built a new primary school building, maximized boarding enrollment, and launched a fundraising program.

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“I come as a leader but also as a learner,” said Mr. Gianni shortly after being appointed head of school at FASNY. “In the coming months, I will take the time to meet with as many members of the school community as possible. Together, we will set objectives and strive to meet them to ensure that we continue to move forward as an institution.”

Mr. Gianni graduated with a *Diplôme d'Études Approfondies* in philosophy from the Sorbonne and, in 1995, ranked second in the prestigious *Agrégation de Philosophie*. He went on to earn an M.B.A. with a focus in global management from the University of Phoenix in Arizona. Fluent in French and English, he is an ardent anti-bullying advocate, delivering a notable TEDx Talk on the subject—titled “[Anti-Bullying Starts at Home](#)”—in Monaco in November of 2017.

Francis Gianni was appointed head of the French-American School of New York in February 2019, after a comprehensive global search conducted over a seven-month period. FASNY extends a warm welcome to him, his wife Jennifer, and their three children, Léo, Romain, and Elena.

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Founded in 1980, the French-American School of New York (FASNY) is an international, independent, coeducational day school providing an education to approximately 800 students in nursery through grade 12. Its mission is to develop globally literate, multicultural lifelong learners through a unique program integrating American, French, and international curricula. The school educates students to understand, contribute to, and thrive in an interdependent world. FASNY holds its students to the highest standards of academic excellence, supports them in their personal development, and fosters a spirit of inquiry, service, and social responsibility for the environment and the global community. The school is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools, the International Baccalaureate Organization, and the French Ministry of Education.