

A day in the life of Emma

a 10th grade FS (2nde FS) student at the Lycée International



I still remember my first time at the Lycée in 2006. I was six years old then. I am now 15 and after spending about 10 years in Australia, I am back and am in *Seconde* (Tenth Grade) in "*Français Spécial*" (FS), an intensive French program for students coming from abroad. Arriving from the other side of the world, it did take me some time to adjust but I have now established a routine and I am excited to take you on a journey on what it is like to spend a day as an FS student in the American Section.

Most days, school starts at 8:00 and living a little far from Saint-Germain en Laye, mornings can get a little hectic!

First up on Thursday I have American History. We are currently learning about the American constitution. The American Section teachers always manage to make classes fun, even when they are teaching us about the constitution.

Learning American history has been a huge learning curve for me and has widened my knowledge of the world. In American Section classes, I can say that I truly feel the American culture around me. And with all the events that the Section organizes, from Halloween to Thanksgiving, it is like being in America in France!



During my spare periods, I usually visit the school library.

The latter has a range of books from all the sections; so whether you are looking to learn Spanish or German or just relax with a good English book, the library is a great place to get the most out of your free time.

If I have any homework that is yet to be completed, the library is the perfect place for that too.

Lunch break usually begins at 12:30 and goes until 13:30 and is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and socialize.

The food that is served is always wholesome and nutritious and of course, tasty. Appetizers such as fruit, salad, yogurt, bread and cheese are always available to go along with the main meal.

Eating at the school restaurant is always a pleasure.



Before French class today, I went to the Patio, our on-campus café, to catch up with some friends. I met some of them at the Normandy trip – a trip conducted by the American Section designed at the start of the acadmix year to tighten bonds between all the *Seconde* students and help us to meet new people. The annual picnic is also a fun outing organized by the Section in the fall which encourages relations not only amongst students, but parents as well.

The café, although not the best place to work, is great to either grab a bite to eat from a range of sandwiches and snacks or just to sit with some friends and spend some time together before class or after school. Parents are also welcome to have a coffee there at any time of the day.

Today, French class was our grammar session. Each lesson, which lasts on average two hours and a half, we alternate between grammar, verbs, and literature. Our teacher handed back our grammar tests today.

For literature, we are split into two groups: beginners and intermediates. In my group, we are working on *Les Misérables* (Victor Hugo) and we have also just started *Candide* (Voltaire). We have two supportive teachers who keep track of our progress with weekly tests and quizzes. I feel I have already come a long way with my French since the beginning of the year.



My FS class is my main class with whom I do all my subjects with, except for Section class and LV class (foreign language class). We are only 17 students which gives the teacher enough time to take care of each and every one of us. Our class is a very diverse class which includes students from the Russian, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Japanese sections, just to name a few. I believe that having such a multicultural class is important as it is an opportunity to open your mind and learn about different cultures.

I am very happy to share a class with these caring and encouraging people who have almost become my family.

Every year, the FS class goes on a ski trip to La Toussuire for about one week where we ski and practice our French intensively. We write two articles each, in pairs, for our annual magazine.



The American Section office is always a delight to visit.

Today, I popped in to hand my order from for American Section sweatshirts and t-shirts and to buy tickets for the upcoming Upper School play, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The caring staff of the American Section office are always there to help. It is also them who ensure that new families feel right at home when stepping into the Lycée – I liked the fact that even before school had started, we had already met some families thanks to the get-together that was organized in August, where we met our buddy-family who answered all our questions.



After school on Thursdays I have Human Rights' Team. It is a campaigning team in which we debate and raise awareness for important issues regarding human rights. This year (2015-2016), our topic is refugee rights. At the end of each year we have our event in which we share our findings and help to enlighten the public upon our respective subject.

I end at 6:00 p.m., go home and prepare for the next day. I have a lot of homework - usually three hours every night in addition to the work I put in on the weekend. That doesn't leave for much free time, but I can still fit in some hobbies such as Human Rights' Team, piano, and Skyping with my Australian friends! We FS students especially need to double the effort in order to keep up with *Première* French students that have been born speaking the language. As intense as FS may be, I know that the hard work will pay off as I will be ready to start the OIB program in *Première* soon!