

A close-up, profile view of a young man with brown hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark red tie. His hands are visible, adjusting the knot of the tie. The background is a blurred blue and grey.

RAYMOND & ESTHER KABBAZ HIGH SCHOOL

LE LYCÉE FRANÇAIS 3 DE LOS ANGELES

If you can see,

LOOK.

If you can look,

OBSERVE.

From “The Book of Exhortations”

Epigraph to the novel [Blindness](#)

by José Saramago

We teach the world.

Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles is proud to be one of the foremost schools in the worldwide network of French Lycées, part of an educational tradition that dates back to the 16th century. In the future there may be other global schools, but none will have the history, foundation and prestige that the Lycée system has built over more than three centuries.

GLOBAL NETWORK

Within the global network of Lycées, there are prominent high schools in London, Shanghai, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, New York, Moscow, and Johannesburg, among many other cities. The oldest international Lycée is located in Pondicherry, India, founded in 1826. Amidst all of these celebrated schools, Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles is one of the most renowned. A distinct advantage of this international network of schools is that students and families often transfer from Lycée to Lycée across the globe.

Many of our professors have taught in France and other countries, and many of our students have studied abroad. The students and faculty of Le Lycée come from more than 55 countries.

Our substantial financial aid programs nurture an economically diverse student body as well. Our school has been a microcosm of the worldwide community for half a century. Many schools now aspire to this diversity, but at Le Lycée it is the natural result of our history.

LIFELONG FRIENDS

In addition to the multilingual, multicultural learning the Lycée environment provides, our students learn self-discipline, perseverance and social responsibility. They make lifelong friends and contacts from around the world. Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles is a leading international institution, just as Los Angeles is a premier global destination.

Our academic philosophy

TRADITIONAL RIGOR, MODERN APPROACH

At Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles we combine the rigorous French system with the best of American secondary education to create a world curriculum for a global society.



TRADITIONAL RIGOR

The meticulously designed Lycée curriculum in France was established in the 18th century and is regulated by the French Ministry of Education. The curriculum of the French Lycée is constantly evolving, and updated programs and teaching directives are published several times a year. At Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles there is an intense emphasis on an analytical European style of education including organizational skills and critical thinking. This comprehensive global point of view includes exploration of the social and cultural relevancy of the material.

Our unique blend of educational cultures at Le Lycée has led to remarkable achievements. Our students often accelerate their college careers by receiving credit for their Advanced Placement work at Le Lycée. Many of our students from English-speaking households who begin their studies at Le Lycée in elementary school attain the highest scores on the prestigious French Baccalaureate.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Le Lycée offers intensive college prep programs in both French and English, with a wide range of Advanced Placement courses in each section. The French-Language Section prepares for the French Baccalaureate examination where our students consistently receive outstanding scores. Le Lycée is one of the first three schools in the world to also offer the new French-American Baccalaureate (FAB) exam, the result of a partnership between the American College Board and the French Ministry of Education. (Read more about this exam on the following page.)

The English-Language Section is designed for the student who prefers to learn in English. What makes this section unique from the other private school college prep programs is its emphasis on a more analytical European and international style of education. This approach focuses on critical thinking and a comprehensive global point of view that includes exploration of the social and cultural

LEFT The high school combines traditional teaching tools like the chalkboard with modern equipment such as high-tech interactive SMART boards.

CENTER A student takes a study break in the cafeteria.

RIGHT Small class sizes are the norm at Le Lycée, optimizing the classical approach to learning.

relevancy of the material. Our students in this section also have the opportunity to become fluent in French and other languages, and often graduate multilingual.

A MODERN APPROACH

The influence of American tradition in secondary education is also important for every student in each section. All of our students are intensively trained in scholarship and research. They graduate fully prepared for the challenges of college and many of them find a college level workload lighter than Le Lycée’s curriculum. The American tradition inspires a vigorous focus on communication, both in writing and in speech. Literature and history become windows that teach our students to be aware of the world around them.

There is always a classical rigor, but the French approach to curriculum is mingled with the American and our students move beyond the classics as well. They submit their essays online and become suitably adept at computers, software and the Internet. All of our students acquire an appropriate level of expertise in computers and software. Their Internet-based research projects include embedded links to text, video, and external websites. Seniors in the English-Language Section create a “Utopia Project” that includes both written and visual components.

“The school accepts students with varied goals and provides the opportunity for each individual to reach them. All of my children are different and the school works for all of them.” Lawrence R. Barnett, parent of four Lycée students

The French-American Baccalaureate (FAB)



The French Ministry of Education and the American College Board partnered and collaborated to create the French-American Baccalaureate (FAB). The FAB is a rigorous exam combining the French Baccalaureate curriculum with the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program, the best of both systems. The FAB does not replace the traditional *bac*, which Le Lycée still offers. Rather the FAB is an option for students who are completely fluent in both English and French. The FAB ensures an even more seamless transition to American and English-speaking universities as well as to other programs around the world that require the achievement level of the French Baccalaureate in conjunction with fluency in English.



FRENCH-LANGUAGE SECTION

- Designed for the student who is fluent in French by the sixth grade, and enjoys learning in French.
- Students earn an American high school diploma.
- Students intend to pursue the traditional French Baccalaureate (*le bac*) or the innovative new French-American Baccalaureate (FAB).
- Students who plan to take *le bac* or the FAB choose to focus on either Humanities, Science or Economics.
- Many American students, even those who do not speak French at home, pursue their studies in French, and go on to become French-Language Section valedictorians and receive remarkable scores on *le bac* and the FAB.
- Students take multiple AP courses in the sciences, math and humanities.
- Students attend a variety of universities around the world, including in France, Canada and the United States.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SECTION

- Designed for the student who is more comfortable speaking English than French, and who prefers to learn in English.
- Students earn an American high school diploma.
- Students will not take *le bac* or the FAB.
- Students take multiple AP courses in the sciences, math and humanities.
- Even though they pursue their studies in English, the students from this section graduate fluent with an AP level in French.
- Required coursework far exceeds the University of California entrance criteria.
- Students benefit from virtually the same course work as their French language counterparts, including philosophy and economics as well as a third language.
- Students primarily attend universities in North America, or English-speaking universities around the world.

Please see our comprehensive Curriculum Guide for a detailed description of the coursework for each section and grade level.

LEFT *Le Lycée has always been a haven for musical excellence, offering music courses by classically trained faculty.*

CENTER *Students edit the school newspaper, The Roar, in the school’s computer lab.*

RIGHT *Economics is offered in both the French- and English-Language Sections.*

Our curriculum

HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES

Our goal in Humanities and Languages at Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles is to educate young people to their fullest potential, and in so doing to train them to become responsible, active citizens. Our primary objective is to develop our students' capacity for critical thinking.



LEARNING FOR LIFE

Le Lycée prepares our students to achieve autonomy and self-reliance, to depend on their own judgment, rather than to simply restate what they have been taught. They learn to solve the problems they encounter as well as to examine themselves in the light of those challenges and their solutions. These fundamental ambitions have extraordinary value, both for our students' personal lives and for their vigorous participation in a democratic society. Our intention is to prepare our students not only for their careers, but also for their lives.

The French Lycée system around the world is renowned for its excellence in the arts and humanities. The tradition of teaching

philosophy in the 12th grade began in 1925. Here at Le Lycée we also have a tradition of achieving true mastery and fluency in languages, French and others. Most of our professors are multilingual and highly trained native speakers of the languages they teach. In addition to French and English, Le Lycée requires a third language. We offer classical Latin and Greek as well as other modern languages, including German and Spanish. We also emphasize the American approach to the humanities, and many courses are seminars focused on group discussion and Socratic dialogue.

AP courses are offered in several languages and literatures, and various genres of history. Many universities grant advanced credit for our AP Humanities courses.

LEFT *A freshman enters a class assignment in his cahier de textes, a traditional French notebook in which students record their entire year's worth of homework.*

CENTER *A junior reviews an SAT prep brochure.*

RIGHT *A 9th grade student in Latin class is transfixed by the magic of an ancient language and culture.*

"Learning is a joy, not just preparation for exams. My primary interest is that what I teach my students will impact their own lives, change a few habits, make them happier." Dominique Petauton, Philosophy Professor, Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles

Our curriculum

SCIENCE AND MATH

The French tradition of math and science emphasizes a profound understanding of abstract theory, ensuring that each student can analyze equations and execute proofs from hypothesis to conclusion. The American approach puts a greater emphasis on pragmatic inquiry, and the direct application of science and mathematics to our physical surroundings.



CROSS-CULTURAL RELEVANCY

At Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles both the American and French educational systems vigorously inform our math and science curricula. Although taught in different languages, these subjects closely parallel each other in our French- and English-Language Sections.

Science and mathematics are universal; both their theory and their application traverse the barrier of language. So while the French and English language curricula may take slightly different approaches, they cover largely the same subject matter. The rigorous engineering-oriented French-Language Section informs the English-Language Section. The French section, in turn, is influenced by the “real-world” American approach to science and math. Both programs focus on carefully argued theory and process, with an emphasis on written and oral examinations rather than multiple-choice tests.

LEARNING THROUGH DISCOVERY

Lycée students discover and study the laws of physics, chemistry and biology primarily through experimentation in

our custom-designed laboratories. Our highly accomplished faculty holds doctoral degrees from European and American universities, in subjects including mathematics, organic chemistry and chemical engineering. Some of them are practicing research scientists who publish in journals such as *Nature* or *Science*. These curricula develop and evolve in regard to new discoveries and technical demands both here in the United States and in Europe.

In the 11th and 12th grades, French-Language Section students may choose to specialize in science and mathematics. This program is distinct from the American Advanced Placement courses in the sciences and mathematics, but AP courses and exams are available to students in both sections. AP courses are offered in Biology, Economics, Physics, Chemistry and Calculus, among other subjects. In math, most Lycée students study differential equations, multiple level complex analysis and calculus by the 12th grade. Many universities grant advanced credit for our regular and AP science and math courses.

LEFT Hands-on lab experiments are the backbone of the science courses at Le Lycée.

CENTER A student who has been at Le Lycée since the age of 3 clearly feels at home.

RIGHT Historically, Le Lycée’s math program is one of the strongest in the country.

Our curriculum

ART, MUSIC AND DRAMA

The fine arts—music, and the visual and dramatic arts—weave their way dynamically through a Lycée student's life, beginning in preschool. In high school, the opportunity to experience and to work in the arts reaches a level that is unparalleled.

THE VISUAL ARTS

Our art instructors, both French and American, are lifetime artists and specialists in their fields. Le Lycée offers art courses as an elective, encompassing both art history and studio art in the 9th and 10th grades, and Advanced Studio Art in upper grades. Graphic Design and Cinema are also available as electives. Our expansive art studio is filled with the ideal natural light, from a bank of windows 40 feet above the floor on the north wall beneath the sloping ceiling. The latest student watercolors and collages cover the walls that surround the atelier, its own separate universe contained within the larger school. Broad worktables, easels, sculptures, installations and an interior structure enclosing a smaller conference and study room break up the loft-like space.

DRAMA AT LE LYCÉE

At the high school level, Le Lycée offers an elective course in drama each year beginning in the 9th grade. These classes cover the history of drama, acting, technical theater studies, and annual high school productions. Our high school and faculty productions and our drama classes at every level are privileged to perform in a world-class performing arts space, Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz. The extraordinary quality of our theatrical presentations and the brilliance of the acting on Le Lycée's stage—in either French or English—are no surprise. Located at the heart of the entertainment world, many Lycée students grow up steeped in the performing arts and cinema.

LEFT Self-expression during Advanced Studio Art is good for the soul as well as the mind.

RIGHT Drama students stage Scène à la Gare by German playwright Karl Valentin.

“The right education is the important thing and the French is a gift that adds to the total package.” Madame Esther Kabbaz, founder of Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles



MUSIC AT LE LYCÉE

In addition to the music courses that are required in our high school curriculum, our students take advantage of a myriad of opportunities to study and perform at every level. Many musical students sing in our superb choir or form their own bands that practice and perform on campus. Others take individual piano lessons at Le Lycée or pursue private studies and perform with local youth orchestras. Our best classically trained musicians pursue concurrent studies at one of the nearby professional schools of music. Some attend



and perform with the Colburn School, one of the most renowned conservatories in the country. Le Lycée supports all of these musical pursuits and has always been a haven for musical excellence.

LE THÉÂTRE

Le Lycée is a focal point for the French and worldwide artistic community of Los Angeles. A casual evening at our theater, Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, is often an elegant international cultural event for the entire family.

LEFT A student performs with her band during Le Lycée's annual Musical Afternoon.

RIGHT Working artists, professional directors, and produced playwrights direct all of Le Lycée's theater productions.



Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz



Sprung from his lifelong passion for the theater, Raymond Kabbaz, the late founder of Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles, commissioned Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, located on Pico Boulevard in Century City. Completed in 2000, the theater's mission is:

- To be an open window onto French and international cultures
- To create and innovate within an educational framework
- To inspire and sustain an enduring appreciation for the arts

The programming and affordable ticket prices attract a wide audience making Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz one of the liveliest French-speaking and international cultural links in Los Angeles.

ABOVE The drama department puts on comedic, dramatic and musical productions in both English and French on the school's professional stage at Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz.

"I love the cultural differences because students here mostly come from all over the world...But even though we are different, we're very united."

Elise LeCam, Class of 2010

Life at Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles

EXTRACURRICULARS

Students at Le Lycée, by their very nature, lead vigorous lives outside of the laboratory and the classroom. It is an important part of the school's philosophy that students learn to live balanced lives with an appreciation for both the mind and the body.



BEYOND ACADEMICS

Extracurricular activities at Le Lycée are as varied as our students. Some Lycéens study music and the arts throughout their lives as students, both within the standard curriculum and beyond the campus walls. Others are gifted athletes, but even those who are not national champions often play sports. Our students initiate their own school-sponsored clubs, including the cheerleading squads that inspire our championship basketball, volleyball and soccer teams.

ATHLETICS

Le Lycée students learn the advantages of the social skills needed for teamwork. The team sports program includes boys and girls' basketball, volleyball and soccer teams. The Lycée Lions compete in our state-of-the-art gymnasium, one of the best on the west coast. Individual physical education activities include fencing,

karate, dance and tennis. The sports program embraces the physical, mental and emotional aspects of competitive training.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

There are many other extracurricular opportunities and programs at Le Lycée. Among them, the Student Council and the student newspaper, *The Roar*, are the foremost activities. *Le Petit Journal*, a treasured tradition at Le Lycée, is a student and faculty driven journal published online in both English and French. The award-winning Model United Nations, the Environmental Club and the Photography Club are also student-run groups that are prominent on campus. Our competitive math team recently won first place in the North American Championship Tournament.

LEFT *Students play a game of pick-up basketball after lunch.*

RIGHT *Girls' volleyball teammates celebrate a win on their home turf.*

"This whole theme of unity and diversity, I really, really like it. And I enjoy how small it is. We are a family. Everybody's first thought is to help fellow classmates."

Paola Cobo, Class of 2012



ABOVE *The school’s award-winning cheerleading squad is an important cultural component at Le Lycée, keeping our school’s spirits high.*

“This internal strength and determination has been present in me ever since I was very young. I believe the reason for this is that I have been educated in the French system my whole life, even though both of my parents do not speak the language.” Piper Sloan, Lycée student



LE LYCÉE CHOIR

While not part of our classroom curriculum, Le Lycée Choir performs primarily in French and English but also in Italian and German, and is one of the most sought-after activities at our school. Elementary, middle and high school students practice and sing together. The chorus rehearses weekly throughout the year for a range of performances that includes concerts, dramatic presentations and recording sessions with world-renowned artists. The choristers often perform as musical ambassadors for Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles, presenting classical and popular songs from the European, American and world traditions.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Le Lycée’s Counseling Department maintains a listing of community service opportunities covering a broad range of categories tailored to a student’s particular interests. As colleges become increasingly competitive, admissions personnel look for innovative ways of selecting between candidates of similar academic standing. Community service and each of these extracurricular activities offer students the opportunity for leadership, and to broaden and distinguish themselves.

STUDENT TRAVEL

Our most popular field trips are to the outstanding museums, galleries and other cultural institutions that are close by in the Los Angeles region. Although many of our students travel extensively with their families, we also have a tradition of annual student field trips to Washington, D.C. and to France.

LEFT *A 9th grader practices his Model UN presentation, “Eradicating Poverty in Land-Locked Countries.”*

RIGHT *After-school clubs take advantage of custom-designed spaces that engender a sense of collegiality on campus.*

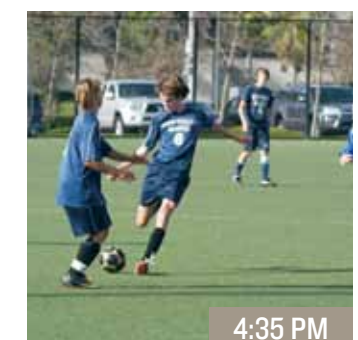
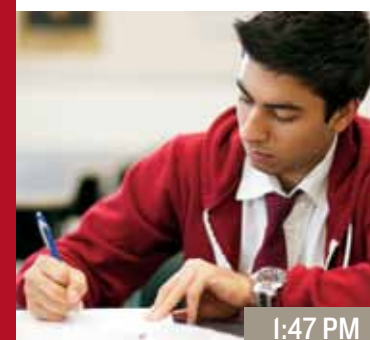
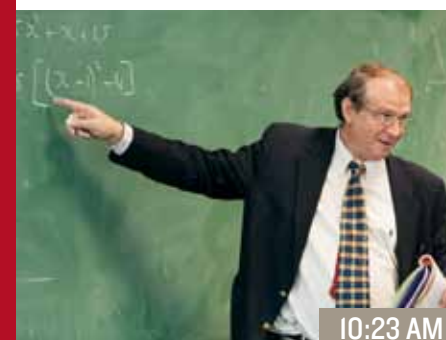
Our academic routine

A DAY IN THE LIFE

- 8:03 AM** A professor shows his student how to position her eye precisely to avoid the error of parallax, while conducting a quantitative chemical analysis called titration.
- 9:21 AM** In a seminar on French romantic poetry, students and their professor discuss *Les Fleurs du Mal* by Charles Baudelaire.
- 9:52 AM** Our school counselor holds her monthly consultation with a high school senior regarding career aptitude test results and the colleges that best fit her academic and personal goals.
- 10:23 AM** A math professor explains a differential equation to his 12th grade AP students.
- 11:16 AM** The expansive picture window in the dining hall overlooks an impromptu basketball game in the school's state-of-the-art gymnasium.
- 12:30 PM** Our student body and faculty enjoy a well-balanced, organic, gourmet lunch in the high school dining hall, prepared fresh daily by our professional chef.
- 1:47 PM** A student sits for his weekly *devoir sur table*, a series of mock exams that prepare our juniors and seniors for the Baccalaureate and AP exams.
- 2:28 PM** Watercolors from an Advanced Studio Art exercise, depicting *el Día de Los Muertos*, serve as a backdrop in the high school's art classroom, a double-height studio filled with natural light.
- 4:35 PM** A Lycée Lions center forward shoots and scores during a soccer match in the CIF semi-finals.



“Le Lycée prepared me to do whatever is thrown at me.”
Faten Sayed, Class of 2009; currently attending Yale, Class of 2013



Life at Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles

ONWARD TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Counseling, testing and preparation for higher education at colleges and universities throughout the world begin early at Le Lycée. Our college admissions counselors take a more personal approach, having developed a highly innovative counseling program.



TESTING, TESTING

Our comprehensive examinations at every level are selected from the best of the American and French systems. Le Lycée also hosts SAT coaching on campus. Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles is a testing center for both the French examinations and the American College Board AP exams. This is a rare advantage among secondary schools, as our students take their exams on their home turf.

DEVOIR SUR TABLE

The *devoir sur table* (a written exam in the classroom) is a long-standing tradition in the French education system. As high school students prepare for their academic culmination exam, the Baccalaureate, they sit for weekly practice exams in multiple subjects, beginning in 10th grade.

Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles employs the *devoir sur table* for students taking AP classes as well, ensuring exceptional test results on *le bac*, the FAB and AP exams in both the English- and French-Language Sections.

CUSTOMIZED COLLEGE COUNSELING

Our counselors help nurture our students' academic portfolios and leadership skills, offering a wide array of opportunities and information. They provide exceptional assistance for international students, including translation of foreign transcripts and arrangements for student visas.

A global, multilingual Lycée education gives our graduates a distinct advantage in regard to college admission, both here in the United States and abroad. Our outstanding counseling program ensures their highest performance.

LEFT A senior writes an exam in his copie double, traditional French test paper.

RIGHT The college counselor reviews a student's personal statement for her college application.

"The best reason to be at Le Lycée is the quality of the teachers. They're fantastic." Martin Seifrid, Class of 2010

Life at Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles

THE CAMPUS

The modernist Raymond & Esther Kabbaz High School campus is composed of “creative educational space,” parallel to the “creative office space” that has become so vital to entrepreneurs and high-tech new media firms.



AN ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

The building is designed to be more than a state-of-the-art educational and sports facility. Both students and faculty can relax outside of the classroom in comfortable common spaces that are conducive to independent learning. Commissioned precisely from the ground up, designed and built over a period of nine years, this superb campus was custom-designed to create spaces that engender a sense of collegiality.

The campus is centrally located on the west side of Los Angeles; easily accessible throughout the city, close to all of the museums and cultural offerings the metropolis has to offer. The architectural design of the school is clean-lined, modern and lively, warm and imaginative. There are massive floor-to-ceiling windows in almost every classroom and laboratory. The main stairway rises through a three-story glass atrium filled with sunlight.

CLASSROOMS, LABORATORIES, GYMNASIUM

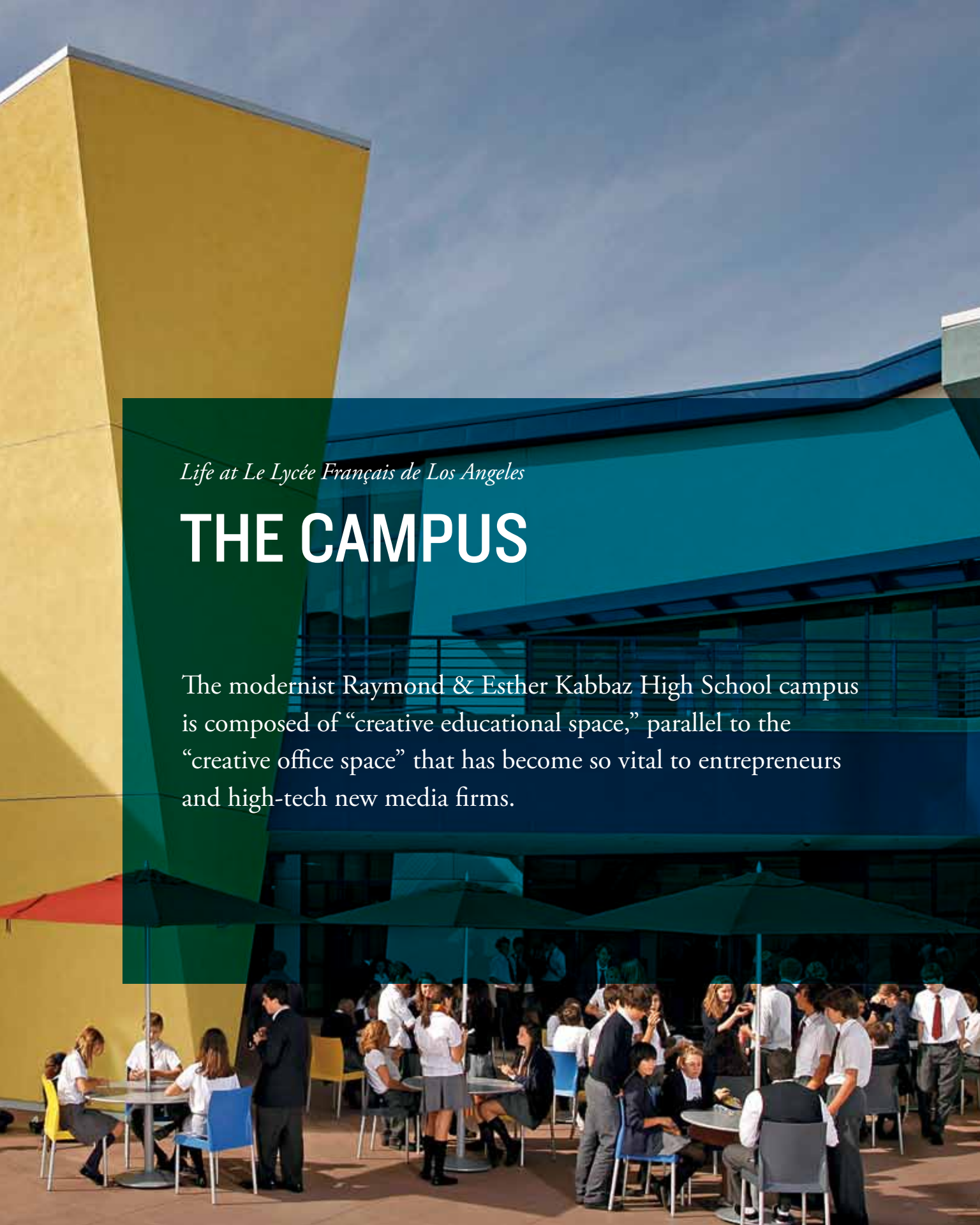
Tall, variable-height ceilings in the classrooms, common areas, science and technology labs, and library often reach 12 feet or more. In the vast, loft-like art studio, the ceiling slopes upward from 12 to 40 feet, with huge clerestory windows that fill the space with indirect northern natural light. The athletic spaces include a mirror-walled dance and martial arts studio. The world-class basketball and volleyball gymnasium employed the same specialty contractors that the Los Angeles Lakers used at the Staples Center.

The dining hall overlooks the large gymnasium through a wall of glass, offering students an excellent view of sporting events. The well-balanced organic meals at Le Lycée, carefully prepared by an outstanding professional chef, are more like dining in a good restaurant than a school cafeteria. The hall also opens onto a partially covered outdoor dining terrace.

LEFT The two science labs were designed with valuable input from our science professors, and tailored to their students’ needs.

CENTER Le Lycée’s gymnasium is the hub of school spirit, and home to the inclusive Lions teams.

RIGHT The modernist building façade reflects the marriage of the French and American cultures at Le Lycée.





ECO-ECOLE

Le Lycée participates in the international *Programme Eco-Ecole*, a program started in Denmark which certifies schools that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental education and sustainable development. Participating schools must rely on the collaboration of administration, faculty, parents, students and the community. Currently more than 25,000 schools in 44 countries are certified as *Eco-Ecole* schools.

In addition to the extensive use of natural light, the design of the campus employs many sustainable strategies and technologies. A state-of-the-art air filtration system maintains excellent indoor air quality. The 96,000 square foot campus is closed and designed for absolute security, including the subterranean parking area. Designed by the distinguished education architects Joseph Pica and Maureen Sullivan, this elegant modern structure is significant in regard to both architecture and education.

LEFT *The library provides a peaceful and inviting space for a reflective break during a busy school day.*

RIGHT *The outdoor dining terrace features the highly popular BBQ Fridays.*

To request additional information about open house events, scheduling campus visits, or if you have any other questions about the high school, please contact the admissions office at admissions@LyceeLA.org or at 310-836-3464, ext. 315.

Raymond & Esther
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Our Campus, Community and Culture



The mission of the Raymond & Esther Kabbaz campus is to enhance learning by encouraging positive social interaction, creating a sense of community and incorporating places for casual learning to occur. Many of these “teachable moments” happen beyond the confines of the classroom. The high school is designed first and foremost for the student. It also continues France’s educational legacy, which Le Lycée has carefully honored and nurtured for five decades.

Design: KBDA, Los Angeles



ACCREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the French Ministry of Education.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles admits students of any race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, disability, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial access programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

www.LyceelA.org 310-836-3464



Le Lycée Français
de Los Angeles