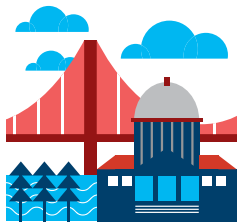


# International High School of the French American International School School Profile 2021-2022



## Our School

The International High School of the French American International School (often referred to as International, IHS, French American, or FAIS) was established in 1962 as an independent, coeducational prekindergarten-12th grade school located in the heart of urban San Francisco. A

belief in the value of diversity is a keystone of our mission statement, and we consequently serve a richly diverse student population from San Francisco and the wider Bay Area.



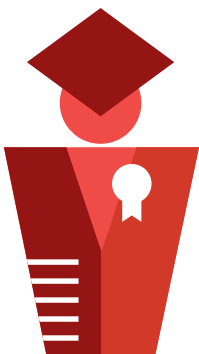
## 2021-2022 School Year Enrollment Statistics

- Class of 2022 enrollment: 91 students
- Total High School enrollment: 370 students
- 1100 students enrolled school wide



## School Accreditation

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the French Ministry of Education, the California Association of Independent Schools, the International Baccalaureate Organization, and the Council of International Schools.



## Our Programs and Faculty

Our school offers the full International Baccalaureate diploma program, including the bilingual option, as well as the French Baccalaureate diploma program and the International Option (OIB). Please refer to the charts below for an overview of these programs. Our school has been offering both the IB and the French Bac since its inception, and we are the first school west of the

Mississippi River to offer the IB Diploma program. Our faculty is composed of teachers from all over the world, and the vast majority have earned Master's degrees or higher.

## The IB Diploma Program

All students in the IB program are full diploma candidates, and many of those are IB bilingual diploma candidates in either the French, Chinese, or Spanish languages. Students do not need to know French to enroll at our high school, but they will need to develop strong skills in a language other than English as part of our program. Unlike at many schools that offer the IB program, our IB standard level courses have 240 hours of instructional time, rather than 150 hours, which allows our standard level courses to be nearly as rigorous as our IB higher level courses with 300 hours of instructional time. In a typical year, two thirds of the senior class will be enrolled in the IB diploma program. To obtain an IB bilingual diploma, a student must take two languages from Group 1 Language A or take one of their core subject courses in a language other than English. Students must also engage in the Extended Essay, a significant independent research project which culminates in a 20-page research paper. Students at our school are actively discouraged from taking more than three IB courses at the Higher Level, since our SL courses are almost as rigorous. We believe it is important to encourage students to achieve balance in their academic lives.

## The French Baccalaureate Diploma Program

All students in the French Baccalaureate Diploma program are full diploma candidates, and many of those students also take extra coursework required of the OIB (IB Higher Level English and an advanced U.S. History course), in addition to extra coursework in a specialty subject, as well as the arts. In a typical year, one third of the senior class will be enrolled in the French Baccalaureate diploma program.

## Recent French Ministry of Education Changes to the French Baccalaureate Program

The French Ministry of Education has made significant changes to the French Baccalaureate. No longer are there separate tracks for science, economic, or literature specialization. Instead, the French Bac allows more student choice in their course selection. Although the French Bac no longer mandates the study of mathematics over four years of high school, our school is requiring students to take mathematics for four years. Most of our students will also select advanced science courses that go beyond the minimum requirements of the French Baccalaureate. The French Baccalaureate has also changed their independent research requirements from the TPE in grade 11 to a grand oral presentation examination in grade 12.

## Similarities Between the IB and French Bac

Both the IB and the French Bac offer very rigorous and demanding academic programs during the last two years of high school – students must study at least two languages (the French Bac requires 3), advanced mathematics, at least one advanced laboratory science class (many study 2), a social science, and an additional subject, which may include another science, and other language, a visual or performing arts class, or an additional social science. In addition, all of our students take challenging philosophy courses as part of the demands of both the IB and French Bac. Both diploma programs also require candidates to write research papers in each subject, as well as an extended piece of research in a field of their choice. For IB students, this research project is called the Extended Essay, and for French Bac students, this requirement is now a grand oral presentation in grade 12.



# Our School's Response to COVID-19 and Standardized Testing

The San Francisco Bay Area was one of the first regions in the United States to issue a shelter-in-place directive in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our last day of in-person student instruction for the 2019-2020 school year was March 13. Our school migrated to a remote learning program through November 2020. For the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, we offered an optional hybrid learning experience. Students had the opportunity to attend classes on campus or remotely. We are expecting all students to return to campus in August 2021 for the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year.

Throughout the entire pandemic, we are grading student work using our traditional grading scale, since we were able to ensure that our students had access to reliable computers and at-home internet. Standardized testing opportunities have been very problematic for our Class of 2022. No public standardized test centers were open in the City and County of San Francisco between December 2019 and March 2021.

Because of rising cases of COVID-19 and state-mandated requirements, we anticipate further disruptions in standardized testing administrations. Many of our students may not have the opportunity to take any standardized tests.





## GPA Calculation and Ranking of Students

Because our school is both a small and intensely rigorous academic environment, and nearly 100% go on to four year colleges, grade distinctions between students are too slight to be significant. For those reasons, we do not rank our students individually. Our grades in each track are translated into the typical American A+-F scale from French track grades out of 20 or International track grades out of 7 according to the following chart.

<b>French Grade</b>	20-17	16-14	13-12	11-10	9-7	6-4	3-0
<b>International Grade</b>	7	6	5	4	3	2	1/0
<b>Transcript Grade/GPA value</b>	A+ (4.25)	A (4.0)	B+ (3.5)	B (3.0)	C (2.0)	D (1.0)	F (0.0)

Our grading scale for both the IB and French Bac is more challenging for students to earn A or A+ grades than at our peer schools. For example, in most international and French schools in the U.S., an IB grade of 6 or 7 or a French Bac grade of 14-20 may earn a student an A+ grade. At our school, only an IB grade of 7 or a French Bac grade of 17-20 is equivalent to an A+. Our school's more challenging grading scale demonstrates the commitment to avoid the appearance of grade inflation. Our grading scale does not include an A- or B- grade values, which also tends to cause difficulty for students to gain higher GPAs than if those grades existed. Students should be evaluated with the realities of our more strict grading scale in mind.



## IB, Bac, and Brevet Results

### IB Results

**2021 Pass Rate:** 97% of our IB students obtained the full IB diploma.

### French Bac and Brevet Results

**2021 Pass Rate:** 100% obtained the French Baccalaureate diploma.

All of our Grade 9 students in the French track passed the Brevet examination, most with honors.



## Standardized Testing Averages

### Class of 2021

- SAT Evidence Based Reading & Writing  
Average Score: 690/800
- SAT Mathematics  
Average Score: 690/800
- ACT Composite  
Average Score: 30/36

### Class of 2020

- SAT Evidence Based Reading & Writing  
Average Score: 690/800
- SAT Mathematics  
Average Score: 680/800
- ACT Composite  
Average Score: 30/36

### Class of 2019

- SAT Evidence Based Reading & Writing  
Average Score: 681/800
- SAT Mathematics  
Average Score: 678/800
- ACT Composite  
Average Score: 28/36

*These statistics include scores from students whose first language is not English.*

## Policy Regarding Reporting of Discipline to Colleges

Our school's policy requires reporting of discipline that results in a suspension or academic probation.

# Course Offerings and Requirements

During their four years at our school, all students will have taken four years of English, four years of at least one language other than English, four years of mathematics, all three sciences (chemistry, physics, and biology), at least two years of history, and at least one year of visual and performing arts.

International Baccalaureate and French Baccalaureate course offerings are listed below, and are taken in a two-year time span during 11th and 12th grade.

## International Baccalaureate Course Offerings

<p><b>Group 1</b>  <b>Literature and Language and Literature (Language A) (HL and SL)</b>            English, French, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin</p>	<p><b>Group 2</b>  <b>Language Acquisition (Language B)</b>            French, Spanish, German, Mandarin, English, Arabic</p>	<p><b>Group 3</b>  <b>Individuals and Societies</b>            History (Europe 20th century, HL/SL)  <i>Offered in English and French</i>            Economics (HL and SL)  <i>Offered in English only</i>            Geography (HL and SL)            Psychology (HL and SL)            Business and Management (HL and SL)            Global Politics HL &amp; SL</p>
<p><b>Group 4</b>  <b>Experimental Sciences</b>            Biology (HL and SL)            Chemistry (HL and SL)            Physics (HL and SL)            Environmental Systems SL            Design Technology SL</p>	<p><b>Group 5</b>  <b>Mathematics</b>            Mathematics Applications and Interpretations (HL and SL)            Mathematics Analysis and Approaches (HL and SL)</p>	<p><b>Group 6</b>  <b>Arts and Electives</b>  <i>Offered in English only</i>            Art (HL and SL)            Film (HL and SL)            Music (HL and SL)            Theater Arts (HL and SL)            Theory of Knowledge            Design Technology HL &amp; SL</p>

## French Baccalaureate Course Offerings

Like the IB, the French Baccalaureate program is a highly demanding two-year program, and all French Bac academic courses are considered honors level coursework similar to the IB or AP programs. The courses offered are as follows:

**Mathematics:** French Baccalaureate specialty mathematics (grade 11 and continuing in grade 12), Mathematics complémentaire (grade 12 mathematics). In Grade 12, a student can choose between specialty mathematics or complémentaire mathematics.

**Science:** Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Core Sciences

**English:** All French Bac students take our IB English courses

**Languages:** All students take three languages: English, French, and one other. French literature study is at the highest level. In grade 12, French language study is completed, but English and third language study continue

**Humanities:** Philosophy (grade 12), History/Geography, OIB (optional additional US History course), Economics, French Literature and Philosophy

**Physical Education:** Required for all four years of high school. Circus arts are a highlight of the program in grade 12

French Bac Students may choose to do additional coursework in the following:

- **OIB: International Option** to the French Baccalaureate (Advanced U.S. History, IB English HL), designed to highlight a French Bac student's bilingualism and biculturalism
- **Arts Option** in either fine arts or theater

# Extracurricular Offerings

Our students face the challenge of integrating their various interests outside of the classroom with the reality of the rigor of our program. Our school day is quite a bit longer than that of our peer high schools in that our students may not end their school day until after 4 pm. Despite our unusually long school day, our students are deeply involved in the arts, athletics, community service, and a very exciting international travel program which spans the globe.

## Visual and Performing Arts

### Theater

Our school has a very ambitious theater program that produces three major plays a school year: the Fall Play, a large production; the student-directed one act plays which are directed by a small group of 12th graders selected for the honor by virtue of their leadership in the department; and the Spring Musical, another large play. Our theater department does not shy away from controversy or adult themes, as exemplified by our recent productions of *Black Rider*, *Spring Awakening*, *Cabaret*, and *Spamalot*. Our productions also include premieres of original work, including a recent project, *Awaiting Dawn*, which gave our students the chance to collaborate with theater professionals, including renowned French Director Moïse Touré, on the production of an original series of cutting-edge theater pieces. Students involved in our theater department often put in very long hours to reach their goals, but the rewards are great.

### Film and Visual Arts

Our school has a strong film department, and we often are the only high school to participate in the 48 hour Film Festival, where our film team creates an entire film in a 48 hour time frame. Our students have consistently won awards for their efforts. We also have a dynamic visual arts department, and our students regularly exhibit their work.

### Music

Many of our students are talented musicians, helped by our school's location near the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco Girls' Chorus, San Francisco Boys' Chorus, and SF Jazz Center. We offer a student orchestra which collaborates with the theater department in playing the music for the school musical as well as performing a wide variety of classical and contemporary music.

## Global Travel Program

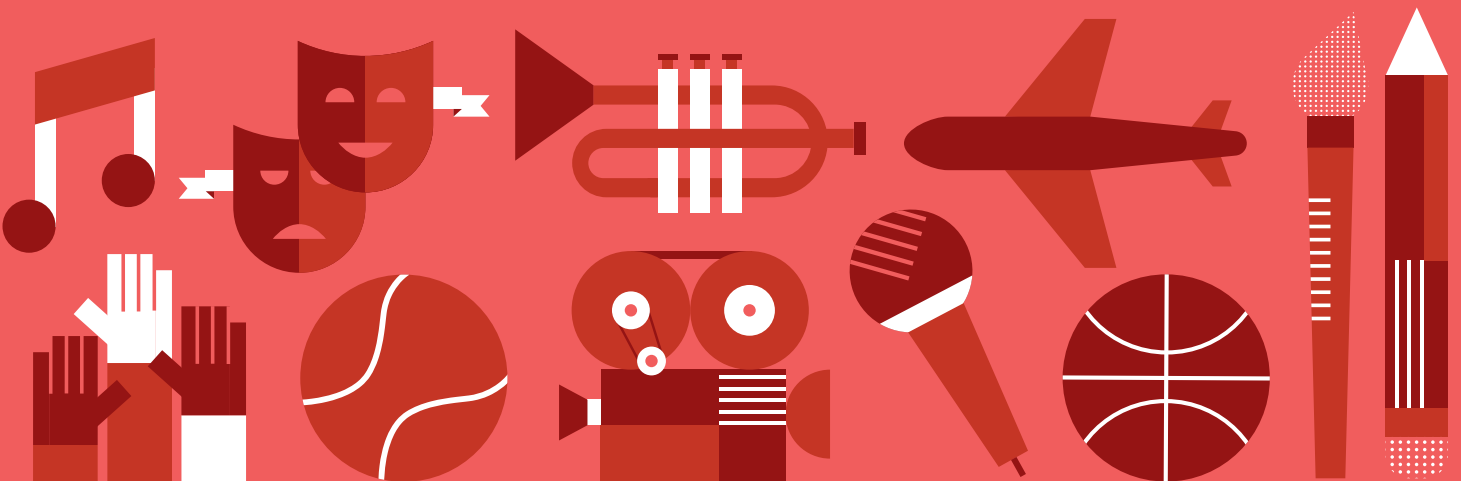
Our students are multilingual global citizens, and our school offers them the opportunity to travel the world in a meaningful way. We can certainly boast about our most ambitious global travel program. Students can practice their language skills and immerse themselves in the culture of Austria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Galapagos Islands, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, India, Laos, Malawi, Myanmar, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Spain, Tahiti, or Taiwan.

## Community Service

International has a robust community service program, focusing on projects to fulfill the needs of our urban neighborhood as well as projects around the world. Our school has received international awards for its projects involving raising money and building a school in Senegal and working in Ethiopia. We also partner in tutoring students in schools in our neighborhood, bringing students enrichment in the arts and music.

## Athletics

International offers tennis, track and field and cross country, basketball, baseball, badminton, volleyball, swimming, and soccer. Over half of the student body is active in athletics, and some students even take on the additional responsibility of playing on two or even three varsity sports teams. Our athletes get out of the classroom later than at other schools, and many athletes need to travel to athletic facilities far away from campus to practice. The dedication of these students is incredibly high. Our teams have had many very successful league-winning seasons, including our Women's basketball team playing in the California state tournament on several occasions. Several students each year will participate in sports offered in our wider community, including rowing, fencing, diving, and club soccer.





# College Matriculation 2017–2021

American University  
Bard College  
Barnard College (3 Students)  
Bates College (2)  
Berklee College of Music  
Bocconi University  
Boston College  
Boston University (11)  
Bowdoin College (3)  
Brandeis University  
Brown University (3)  
Bryn Mawr College  
California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo (3)  
California State Polytechnic University Pomona  
California State University Dominguez Hills  
California State University, Northridge  
Cambridge University  
Carleton College  
Carnegie Mellon University (5)  
Case Western Reserve  
Chapman University (2)  
City College of San Francisco (2)  
Claremont McKenna College  
Colgate University  
College of Marin  
Columbia University (2)  
Concordia University Montreal (4)  
Cornell University (7)  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
Duke University (2)  
EHL Lausanne (2)  
Emerson College  
Emory University (2)  
ESSEC Business School  
Fordham University (2)  
George Washington University (8)  
Georgetown University (3)  
Gonzaga University  
Goucher College  
Hamilton College  
Harvard University (5)  
Harvey Mudd College (2)  
Haverford College  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

IE University Madrid (2)  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kenyon College  
King's College London  
Lewis & Clark College (3)  
Loyola Marymount University (8)  
Macalester College (3)  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (4)  
McGill University (11)  
Middlebury College  
Millikin University  
New York University (12)  
Newcastle University  
Northeastern University (6)  
Northwestern University (3)  
Oberlin College  
Pace University  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Pratt Institute  
Princeton University  
Purdue University (2)  
Reed College (3)  
Saint Mary's College of California  
San Diego State University (2)  
San Francisco State University (2)  
Santa Barbara City College (2)  
Santa Clara University (2)  
Santa Monica College  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Sciences-Po / Columbia (2)  
Scripps College (2)  
Seattle University  
Spelman College  
Stanford University (2)  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
The University of Edinburgh (5)  
Tufts University (8)  
Tulane University (4)  
University College Dublin  
University for the Creative Arts  
University of British Columbia (4)

**University of California**  
Berkeley (12)  
Davis (10)  
Irvine (7)  
Los Angeles (12)  
Merced  
Riverside (4)  
San Diego (6)  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Cruz (12)  
  
University of Chicago (9)  
University of Colorado Boulder (2)  
University of Denver  
University of Glasgow (2)  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kansas  
University of Massachusetts Amherst (2)  
University of Michigan  
University of Montreal  
University of North Dakota  
University of Notre Dame (2)  
University of Oregon (2)  
University of Oxford  
University of Pennsylvania (7)  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
University of San Francisco (3)  
University of Southern California (10)  
University of St Andrews (3)  
University of the Pacific  
University of Toronto  
University of Victoria  
University of Washington Seattle (12)  
University of Wisconsin Madison  
Vassar College  
Wake Forest University (5)  
Washington University in St Louis (8)  
Wellesley College (2)  
Wesleyan University (4)  
Whitman College  
Williams College  
Yale University (3)



FRENCH AMERICAN  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL

**Office of College Counseling**

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**School Website**  
[www.internationalsf.org](http://www.internationalsf.org)

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