



ROCHAMBEAU

THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MON ENFANT ENTRE EN 6^{ème}



MY CHILD IS STARTING 6 Grade



aefe
Agence pour
l'enseignement français
à l'étranger

GET YOUR 6th GRADER OFF TO A GOOD START !

- Know and understand your child's schedule, and help them organize their backpacks for school each day
- Choose a lightweight backpack and purchase a solid locker shelf
- Get to know your homeroom teacher
- Participate in the parent-teacher meetings
- Monitor your child's sleep time
- Make sure your child eats breakfast
- Keep an eye on "screen time" (phone, television, Chromebooks, etc.)
- Contact the homeroom teacher or the Vie Scolaire for any questions or concerns

➤ *Some key people to know :*

Philippe Vanhille, Director of the Secondary School

The Director of the Secondary School is responsible for the Middle School and High School. You may contact Mr. Vanhille at vanhillep@rochambeau.org in the event that a concern cannot be addressed by the homeroom teacher or the Dean of Students.

The Homeroom Teachers

There are 2 homeroom teachers assigned to each 6eme class. The homeroom teacher is the intermediary between all teachers, parents and students. They keep families informed of their child's academic and behavioral issues, inform families about class life, and prepare Class Council meetings. You will receive the names and emails of your homeroom teachers at the beginning of the school year.

Rhonda Trad and the Vie Scolaire team

The Vie Scolaire team ensures students' well being and safety outside of the classroom. They also ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the school and manage absences and tardiness. For all absences or late arrivals, please contact the Vie Scolaire at the following address: viescolaire@rochambeau.org. The Dean of Students, Rhonda Trad, can be reached at the following address: tradr@rochambeau.org

Laetitia Yafai, School Nurse

The School Nurses are the health contacts for the Middle and High School students. They follow students' health concerns during the school year, verify students vaccination records, manage emergencies and provide counseling. The nurse, along with the Vie Scolaire, has an important role in providing information and prevention for at-risk behavior. Nurses may be contacted at the following address: nurse@rochambeau.org

Jacob Memminger, School Counselor

The School Counselor is the psychological contact person for the Middle and High School, and is responsible for the social-emotional well being of the students. The Counselor is available to meet with students and/or parents at any time, and can provide guidance and resources to families. You may contact Mr. Jacob Memminger at memmingerj@rochambeau.org

➤ ***For quick reference :***

Forest Road Campus: (301) 850 1574

Philippe Vanhille, Director of Secondary School: vanhillep@rochambeau.org

Nicole Agenor, Assistant to the Director: agenorn@rochambeau.org

Rhonda Trad, Dean of Students: tradr@rochambeau.org

Middle School Vie Scolaire Team: viescolaire@rochambeau.org

Sabira Radji

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Learning Support Services: piardf@rochambeau.org

Nurses: nurse@rochambeau.org

Librarians: cdi@rochambeau.org

Transportation Service: rochambus@rochambeau.org

Pronote Support: pronotesupport@rochambeau.org

Technology support: stechsupport@rochambeau.org

SIXTH GRADE: A TRANSITION YEAR

The first year of middle school marks a pivotal moment in your child's academic life. The challenges that he/she will face this year should not be underestimated. Your child will need to learn how to manage many new experiences, both on a personal and on an academic level.

It is important to be involved in and supportive of your child's transition from CM2 to 6eme.

A Full Schedule

More time each day is devoted to academics: students have 30 hours of class each week, plus up to 4 additional hours if they choose an elective.

Students must be able to adapt to a schedule that changes every hour for each subject and that requires moving between classrooms without being late. They will need to be organized and to bring the appropriate books and supplies to each class. This process takes time. ***At home, it is important to develop a homework and bedtime routine. Timetables are distributed on the first day of school. We suggest displaying copies at home and in the locker.***

The Locker!

Sixth grade students will be assigned a personal locker at the beginning of the school year and will learn how to use the locker to manage materials needed for their school day, and what to take home for homework.

Remembering what to bring to school and what to take home can be difficult at the start of the year. ***It is important to take time every evening to help your child prepare his or her schoolbag based on the next day's schedule.*** Monitoring the weight of your child's school bag on a regular basis is also important. ***If you think your child needs additional locker help, please contact the homeroom teacher or the Vie Scolaire for assistance. We highly encourage students to purchase locker shelves in order to keep school material easily accessible.***

Homework

In sixth grade, students will notice a significant increase in homework and might feel overwhelmed on some days. The end of the trimester is the busiest due to trimestral evaluations.

All homework is posted on Pronote. At the beginning of the school year, ***parents should verify posted homework with their child and encourage them to be proactive and review lessons regularly.*** If an assignment seems too difficult or is not well understood, we encourage families to contact the teacher.

The Chromebook

Sixth grade students will receive a Chromebook, which they will take home each night. This computer is for daily schoolwork and serves an instructional purpose. They will also be assigned a Rochambeau email address to communicate with their teachers and classmates.

Several e-textbooks (included in the tuition) are installed on the Chromebook in order to limit the weight of backpacks.

All students and parents must sign a Technology Code of Conduct Agreement¹ for the appropriate use of the device.

School Supplies and Uniforms

Purchasing school supplies and hard copy books are the family's responsibility. These may be ordered via the school's portal in June and can be picked up at the Rochambeau store at the start of the school year.

All students must have a uniform for physical education and sports (EPS). This includes a T-shirt with the school's logo which is available at the school store. Students must also wear specific clothing on field trips: a buttoned up white shirt, navy blue or black pants, dress shoes, and the Rochambeau tie (provided at the beginning of the school year).

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

Personalized Assistance - Student Learning Support (SLS) Team

- The **Learning Support Specialists** are in charge of supporting students with learning differences; their goal is to help students acquire methods to deepen and consolidate knowledge and skills.
- The **French as a Second Language (FLSco) teachers** assist students who may need additional help in French.

Your child's homeroom teacher will recommend the Student Learning Support team to you if they feel the need.

Study Hall

Rochambeau provides two types of homework assistance:

- **Études Dirigées:** Small group study hall with personalized assistance by a certified teacher (ratio of 8 students per teacher). This is a paid service and requires registration at the beginning of each trimester.
- **Études Surveillées:** Large group study hall with supervision by a Vie Scolaire member. This is a non-paying service that requires registration at the beginning of each trimester.

Hours for both services are from 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

¹ http://rochambeau.finalsite.com/uploaded/PORTALS/SECONDAIRE/REGLEMENT/Tech_Conduct.pdf

SCHOOL LIFE – LA VIE SCOLAIRE

Internal Rules

The Secondary School Internal Rules is a document that defines the general rules and regulations to be followed by students. The document is provided at the beginning of the school year, and is also available on the school website (in the Parent Portal). The homeroom teacher will review the document with students during the first week of school.

Permission to Leave Campus

For safety reasons, Middle School students are not permitted to leave the campus during school hours. In the event a class is canceled, students may only leave the campus with written permission from their parents.

The Class Life Hour (Vie de Classe)

Once a week during the Vie de Classe hour, the homeroom teachers meet with their class to discuss topics of concern to the students. This is a time for dialogue and discussion. This hour is also utilized to elect class delegates, student council representatives, and to prepare for class council meetings. During this homeroom time, the homeroom teacher also teaches methodology skills to enable students to be more autonomous and better organized.

Prevention

Throughout the year, the Vie Scolaire staff, homeroom teachers and the School Counselor collaborate to organize education and awareness sessions on harassment, violence prevention and addictive behavior. These sessions are organized to enable students to develop the psycho-social skills necessary for their personal development.

Student Delegates

Class Delegates: Each October, students elect two class delegates along with two alternates. Delegates represent their classmates at the Class Council meetings and throughout the year. Students who wish to be elected as delegates must prove to be responsible and show exemplary behavior.

Representatives to the CVC: Two students from 6th grade are also elected to represent their grade at the Conseil de la Vie Collégienne (CVC). The Conseil, composed of eight students (2 from each grade in Middle School), contributes to educational and social activities within the framework of culture, solidarity, education and “vivre ensemble” within the school community. The Council meets officially three times a year, and working committee meetings are held regularly depending on the activities and projects implemented by the members of the body.

Community Service

Community volunteer service throughout Middle School and High School is strongly encouraged as it helps students develop their civic and social skills, and is highly regarded on university applications. There are several opportunities, on and off campus, for community service throughout the year.

Service hours are registered, and students receive a certificate of participation at the end of the school year. For more information, please contact the Vie Scolaire at viescolaire@rochambeau.org

Extracurricular activities

Rochambeau offers extracurricular clubs that include artistic, cultural and sporting activities. Clubs meet after classes, starting at 3:45 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. Registration is typically offered at the beginning of the school year.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

The Rochambeau Portal & Weekly Headlines

The Rochambeau website allows families to keep up to date with school news (www.rochambeau.org). Families can find the school directory, class lists, bus routes, school handbooks, book lists and supplies, calendars, health forms and general information on the website. Families will receive login information at the beginning of the school year for access to the portal.

Families will also receive a weekly newsletter from Rochambeau Communications listing headlines and resources that may be of interest.

Pronote

Pronote is an interface that allows families to follow a student's progress. In sixth grade, we encourage families to check Pronote daily with their child. On Pronote, you can find the class schedule, absences and tardiness records, warnings and detentions, grades, homework assignments, and general correspondence

For Pronote support, please contact: pronotesupport@rochambeau.org

Meetings with Families

Families will be invited to a first informational meeting with the entire academic team a few weeks after school begins. This meeting will include general information about the school year as well as a presentation of all subjects.

Two additional meetings will take place during the year (November and March) with individual teachers. These meetings are brief and serve to provide an update on your child's successes and challenges. Parents may request additional appointments with specific teachers for longer, more in-depth conversations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL

Class Representatives

Parents may volunteer to become class representatives. Representatives participate in the Class Council meetings and represent the families for all issues relating to the class.

Elected Representatives

Parents may also present themselves for election to the School Council (or Conseil d'Établissement), which meets three times a year. Through this Conseil, parent representatives participate in decisions relating to the general operation of the Middle School and High School.

Parent Association (PAR)

The Rochambeau Parent Association (PAR) works in partnership with Rochambeau to implement a number of activities within the school that benefit our entire community. PAR volunteers play an essential role in organizing school celebrations and managing projects. The Parent Association (PAR) is a not-for-profit organization registered with the State of Maryland. You may contact PAR at: PAR@par-rochambeau.org

THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The sixth grade is the first year of middle school but also the last year of a learning cycle that began in CM1 (fourth grade). The following table demonstrates how the 6eme fits into your child’s educational program in parallel to the American system.

PRIMARY			MIDDLE SCHOOL			HIGH SCHOOL
CYCLE OF CONSOLIDATION - 3			CYCLE OF DEEPENING - 4			FINAL CYCLE
CM1	CM2	6EME	5EME	4EME	3EME	2-1-T
4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10-12
U.S. PRIMARY SCHOOL			U.S. MIDDLE SCHOOL			U.S. HIGH SCHOOL

The Common Core of Knowledge, Skills and Culture

The common core of knowledge, skills and culture defines the material that students must master by the end of compulsory education in order to continue their education further, build their personal and professional future and succeed in life. It provides the framework for instruction. The common core includes these areas:

- Languages for thinking and communicating
- Tools and methods for learning
- Educating students as citizens
- Natural and technical systems
- Representations of the world and human activity

Subjects

In sixth grade, students have at least eleven different teachers in various subjects, as shown in the table below. Adapting to different teaching methods and expectations is essential.

SUBJECT	HOURS
Homeroom hour	1
Physical Education and Sports	4
Art	1
Music	1
French	5
History and Geography	3
History and Geography International section ² (SIA)	4
English	5
English International Section (SIA)	6
Second Language: Spanish, German or Arabic (LV2)	2
Mathematics	5
Science: Life and Earth Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Technology	3
Electives: Language and Culture of Ancient Civilizations	2
TOTAL	30 to 34 hours / week

Instructional Requirements

Each subject area has a curriculum defined by official French guidelines and adapted to the North American context, for example, in teaching English. The sixth grade program can be found online in French version³. With the exception of electives, all courses are mandatory.

French: The program aims to consolidate what was learned in elementary school. The spoken language receives particular attention while in reading comprehension, the program aims to help the student acquire significant independence. Literature is an essential part of French instruction in sixth grade and covers major themes such as monsters, adventure tales, creation tales and poetic creativity. French language is the language used in all classes with the exception of English class and other world languages classes.

English: Students are grouped based on their language proficiency. Activities focus on listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking, writing, and discovering cultural aspects of the language.

More advanced or bilingual students begin the study of literature. English is often referred as *Lange Vivante 1* or LV1 (World Language 1)

² See below

³ http://www.education.gouv.fr/pid285/bulletin_officiel.html?cid_bo=94708

Another World Language: Spanish, German or Arabic⁴ may be chosen as a third language. In Spanish, students are grouped based on their level. In German and Arabic, there are no groupings for these classes. Activities focus on the following skills: listening and comprehension / reading and comprehension / speaking continuously / writing / responding and conversing / discovering cultural aspects of the language

Art: Art classes allow students to develop their potential for invention and creativity, while refining their analytic abilities. Students take on artistic projects based on intentional plans and closely analyzing their own work as well as that of classical and contemporary artists.

Music: Education in music aims to develop skills of perception and musical performance. Students listen to and analyze musical works and learn to move beyond their own tastes. Performance is based on vocal expression and techniques. Instructor-led projects focus on producing musical performances.

Physical Education and Sports: Physical education and sports (EPS) helps students learn to consider their own health and well-being and introduces them to sports. The program is divided into different learning areas: athletics, artistic performance, and team or individual games with or without using balls.

History-Geography: Students approach history and geography through several themes and subject areas. In history, the program covers the period from early human civilization to the end of the ancient period. In geography, the program is built around the study of various regions (metropolitan areas, sparsely populated places, coastlines) and the distribution of the world's population. Whenever possible, the program explores the relationship between France and the United States/North America.

Science and Technology: The program aids in building knowledge, skills and the ability to take a scientific approach. The following subjects are covered: physics (matter, movement, energy, information), life and earth sciences (life and its diversity), technology (equipment, technical subjects), the earth (the earth and living things in their environment).

Mathematics: Sixth grade mathematics is focused on deepening what was learned in elementary school. Themes cover a variety of areas: counting, calculation, measurement, and geometry. Problem solving, in several areas, is central. There are several instructional themes:

- Representation of large whole numbers, fractions and decimals
- Calculating with whole numbers and decimals
- Geometric size (area, volume, angle)

⁴ Arabic and German are offered only if the class size is large enough

- Location in space
- Knowledge of geometric figures and solids (description, representation, etc.)
- Recognition and use of geometric relationships.

The International Section or SIA

In 2019, Rochambeau opened the Section Internationale Americaine (SIA), and it is now offered in the 6th grade. As part of the SIA, students will have:

- 6 hours of English
- 4 hours of History-Geography, including two hours taught in English by an English-speaking teacher

English is taught according to a specific program in which the proportion of literature is significant. In History-Geography, the program is a bilingual and bicultural program; it follows the French official curriculum with some modifications, establishing links to the history and geography of the United States of America where appropriate.

Students must apply into the SIA program. Acceptance into the program is based on different criteria:

- Proficiency in English language.
- Writing sample
- Recommendation of the homeroom teachers (organization, work capacity, etc.).

Elective Courses

All elective courses are offered based on 2 hours of weekly instruction.

- Ancient Cultures: This class is an introduction to the Greek and Latin worlds. Study includes written texts, ancient culture and history.
- Arabic: for students who wish to take a fourth language.

Academic Results and Evaluation

Teachers grade students on a regular basis. Grading is based on a 20-point scale. These grades correspond to the American grading system as presented in the table below.

Three times yearly, parents receive a report card via Pronote. This report card includes:

- The student's trimestral average by subject
- The student's overall average for all subjects combined
- A general comment as well as Individualized comments from each teacher
- Opinion as to the student's readiness to move to the next grade level (in the third trimester report card).

GRADE OUT OF 20 POINTS	AMERICAN EQUIVALENT
16-20	A+
15	A
14	A-
13	B+
12	B
11	B-
10	C+
9	C
8	C-
7	D+
6	D
5	D-
4-0	E

Class Council (Conseil de Classe)

The Conseil de Classe is a body that meets at the end of each trimester. It includes teachers, a Vie Scolaire representative, the Head of School or their representative (usually the Dean of Students or the Director of the Secondary School), as well as parent and student representatives. During Conseil de Classe meetings, the team discusses the progress of the class as a whole and of each individual student. In the third trimester, the Conseil issues an opinion on moving to the next grade level. Parents who wish to address specific class related issues to the Conseil may do so by going through their parent class representatives. Following each Conseil, the latter provides a report to the parents of their class.