

## ROCHAMBEAU, THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

### ACADEMIC PROJECT 2022-2027

#### FOREWORD

The academic project formalizes the collective vision of the school community in terms of educational policy and the implementation of French national education programs in the specific context of the school. It ensures that the educational choices made are consistent with the school's values and strategic plan. It was developed in consultation with all members of the community - teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, students.

The school project is structured around four priority areas broken down into objectives. For each of these objectives, concrete actions are proposed, some of which are already underway -their presence then marks their importance for the future and our desire to intensify them-, or are planned. The actions cited are examples and by no means an exhaustive list: the school project is alive and will be enriched by reflections and new ideas over the years.

A follow-up will allow us to regularly observe the implementation of the objectives and to launch new projects.

#### CONTEXT

Rochambeau, the French International School, is a French and international school, approved by the French Ministry of Education, partner of the AEFÉ and member of the MLF, accredited by the IB (International Baccalaureate) organization. It offers a complete education from kindergarten to the end of high school, which guarantees mobility within the network of French schools around the world and contributes to the promotion of the French language and culture. Open to its environment, it delivers the High School Diploma and strives to offer a diversified curriculum aimed at the success of all students.

The school enrolled 1,080 students in 2021-2022, of which approximately 40% were French, 40% American and 20% from 80 other nationalities. Its goal is to have 1,400 students within 10 years. Families enroll their children at Rochambeau for different reasons, but they all have in common the choice of a French education. Rochambeau has universalist values and sets ambitious goals: educational excellence, intellectual rigor and critical thinking, adaptability, autonomy, mastery of several languages and openness to the world, respect for others. It makes diversity a central value, an opportunity for every member of the community.

Rochambeau students are destined to continue their education anywhere in the world. Their primary and secondary education and the diplomas they have earned ensure that their skills are widely recognized and open doors to all fields of study.

As this project is adopted, Rochambeau is at a special and exciting time in its history. With the opening of its new primary campus, the school will gain new momentum and the exceptional quality of its facilities will be an additional asset for the success and development of its students.

AXIS 1 - STUDYING LANGUAGES AT ROCHAMBEAU :  
MASTERING FRENCH AND ENGLISH IN A MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL CONTEXT

OBJECTIVE

To ensure French-English bilingualism for all our students

- starting in kindergarten, progressive entry into the new language and progress accompanied by our French and English-speaking teachers; for students who have completed a full course, the goal is bilingualism at the end of Cycle 2 (3rd grade)
- students who join us in cycle 2 (from 1st to 3rd grades) are welcomed in an immersion program, with a dedicated teacher
- Involvement of the FLE/FLSCO department, in and out of class, to provide expertise and support to students experiencing difficulties
- reinforced and accelerated learning of English: teaching by English-speaking teachers, non-linguistic topics (social studies starting in 1st grade, mathematics starting in 4th grade, American history starting in 8th grade), lessons in skill groups
- International American Section of the French bac starting in 6th grade (teaching of American literature and history-geography in English)
- in high school, linguistic differentiation of courses: French-speaking dominance with the French Baccalaureate (classic or BFI) or English-speaking dominance with the International Baccalaureate

Some ideas for action

language workshops to differentiate the content taught according to the students' profiles  
development of subjects taught in two languages through co-teaching  
alignment of programs and skills to reinforce language learning  
all of our volunteer students admitted to the international section  
offer the IB pathway at 9th grade and above starting in 2023

## OBJECTIVE

To engage our students in an ambitious multilingual program

- three « world languages » taught (German, Arabic, Spanish) and one ancient language (Latin); the objective is for all students to reach a B1 level at the end of the final cycle (B2 through the trilingual BFI)
- Spanish is offered to all students starting in Cycle 3 (4th grade); it is taught in skill groups
- the place of this 3rd language is reinforced (International Trilingual French Baccalaureate; compulsory in the future 3e-seconde IB cycle, optional in the IB terminal cycle)

### Some ideas for action

rewriting of an ambitious 3rd language program, from 4th to 12th grade

opening of an optional reinforcement course in Spanish and German starting in 6th grade

development of the language skills of our students (development of certifications; integration of an indicator in the school report card...)

proposal of a 4th language starting in 8th grade ?

## OBJECTIVE

To develop language learning and use in and out of the classroom

- languages are put into context and come to life through cultural projects (class or grade level projects)
- developing opportunities to use languages in a non-academic and friendly setting
- encouragement of the presence of French at home (cinema, television, reading...)

### Some ideas for action

increase the number of events around important holidays (e.g. Dia de los Muertos...), fun activities (artistic, cultural, country presentations, meetings with personalities, exchanges...)

participate more frequently in MEN, AEFÉ and MLF operations (e.g. "Mai des langues", Printemps des Poètes, ADN-AEFÉ, etc.)

offer clubs in all languages - taught or not in the school

organize trips, in France and in other French-speaking countries, and to countries that use our taught foreign languages

propose the study of the French language to the parents of the students?

## AXIS 2 - SUCCEEDING AT ROCHAMBEAU :

ACCOMPANY EACH STUDENT TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF HIS OR HER FUTURE PROJECTS

### OBJECTIVE

To lead each student to his or her own excellence

- students are different -in their projects, their tastes, their aptitudes- and the notion of success depends on each one: these differences are taken into account by the teaching teams in their teaching and their evaluation, and students are constantly encouraged and valued; the common point to all students: ambition, which we aim to encourage
- in each subject, successful students are brought to the highest level, and more fragile students are supported (in class and if necessary with the Student Learning Support teachers)
- all subjects are important and valued - science, humanities, arts, sports, languages ...
- the teaching of science is particularly thorough: mathematics and experimental sciences are taught every year, and students can choose to reinforce their learning in these disciplines (majors, electives)

### Some ideas for action

implementation of a tool for monitoring the student's project, which will encourage recognition of their success in relation to their objectives

development of differentiated time in the first degree within the framework of workshops

implementation of a system of excellence in the final year of the school cycle

setting up clubs to deepen skills in a playful way

participation in competitions in all disciplines

### OBJECTIVE

To develop all of the student's skills and to thrive in school

- success is not just academic performance, it involves the development of other skills - social skills, commitment skills...- and success outside the classroom is as important as success in the classroom
- Our students are in a demanding school, they have long days, they are ambitious... they are recognized for their efforts, valued for the skills they acquire, accompanied and

reassured. The teaching teams and school counselors, « vie scolaire » and all the staff are present and available for them. Everyone takes into account the need to help our students find a balance between school and personal life

- school is not a place of competition, and everything must be done to limit the harmful effects of the race for grades and comparison

#### Some ideas for action

appointing a reference teacher for each student, who will follow him or her throughout the course of study and be able to advise the student

reflection on report cards and tools for monitoring school results (use of pronote)

developing cooperation between students and peer tutoring

the opening of the Maplewood site will reinforce the importance of the CM2-6e liaison actions

#### OBJECTIVE

To build and succeed in one's post-baccalaureate orientation project

- the years spent at Rochambeau are decisive for access to higher education: students, parents and teaching staff work together, in conjunction with the guidance department, to define the student's project, a project that begins to be thought out in middle school, and develops and evolves until the senior year
- the specificities of this project are taken into account by the teaching teams in the assessment of the student's efforts and progress, according to the skills to be worked on
- to value the commitments and successes outside the classroom in order to better highlight the qualities of our students for their applications to higher education
- our program with Montgomery College (first dual enrollment courses offered at the beginning of the 2022 school year) should allow students who wish to do so to begin to confront the goals and methods of higher education and to accumulate credits

#### Some ideas for action

construction of a program of "class life" in secondary school, including the time of intervention of guidance counselors

creation of a tool for monitoring student projects (an orientation passport?)

development of courses offered in cooperation with Montgomery College

addition of a section in the high school report card?

emphasis on projects to develop oral skills

implementation of workshops to prepare for college applications

AXIS 3 - LIVING TOGETHER IN ROCHAMBEAU :  
ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF EVERYONE IN A DIVERSE AND CARING COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE

To ensure a caring and respectful environment

- emphasis on the notion of respect: everyone must embrace the goal of well-being for all, and adopt behaviors that ensure the serenity of campus life (behavior, language, nonviolent communication); teachers, school life, and school counselors frequently intervene in class to work on social skills with students
- everyone must feel comfortable and safe at school, which means listening and taking emotions into account: all staff are available, all students can express themselves
- bullying is prevented and any situation of bullying is immediately dealt with: any student can talk to any adult about a situation they have experienced or know about
- special attention is paid to gender equality

Some ideas for action

development of the "Restorative Practices" program

well-being activities integrated into the student's day

opening of a "safe space" to allow students who need it to find a welcome and a listening ear

awareness and prevention campaigns carried out by students for students: against bullying, for kindness, etc...

OBJECTIVE

To celebrate the diversity of our community

- Rochambeau is an open and inclusive school, where diversity is not just a fact of life: it is celebrated as an opportunity
- The DEI policy is determined and has been in place for the past two years. It will continue to move the institution forward in all its aspects, so that everyone knows that they have a place in our community

- Diversity education, and its celebration, begins in kindergarten and continues through high school

#### Some ideas for action

the lessons will be reworked to integrate the objective of diversity and to allow everyone to find their way in the course content

a calendar of celebrations will be established and followed by the whole school; events will be organized (commemorations, celebrations)

a brigade of "allies" will be formed, with students trained and visible (wearing distinctive signs)

a program will be established to give continuity and clarity to our actions

highlighting of all the components of our community (biographies, etc...)

#### OBJECTIVE

Keep our campuses alive!

- our campuses are beautiful, and everyone must be involved in their preservation and improvement, they must be ever more warm and welcoming
- students have a fundamental role to play in improving the spaces where they spend most of their time; through the student councils (school, middle school and high school councils) in particular, they formulate proposals, and resources (premises, materials) are made available to them to carry out their initiatives
- events and projects will help foster students' attachment to their school (e.g., assemblies); decided collectively, they will punctuate the school year and allow students to contribute their skills and ideas to the community
- our campuses are places where we learn to live together, and the community spirit must be developed by emphasizing what brings us together and unites us: our values, particularly those derived from humanism

#### Some ideas for action

the spaces -circulations, classrooms, recreation and dining areas...- will be decorated by the students, with permanent installations or renewed according to projects, or for festive times

the reorganization on two campuses -Maplewood and Forest Road- opens up important opportunities to offer new spaces to our students, some of which will be dedicated to their well-being and placed under their responsibility (e.g., the high school students' lounge)

increase the number of projects that develop the attachment of each student to the school (e.g., "language flowers")

the community will be invited to designate a mascot and choose a motto

AXIS 4 - BECOMING A CITIZEN AT ROCHAMBEAU :  
OPENING OUR STUDENTS TO THE ISSUES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

OBJECTIVE

To learn responsibility and commitment

- this learning takes place throughout the schooling, in class (collaborative work in all subjects, in PE - refereeing, coaching... -, role of class representatives, etc...) and outside of class (participation in school councils, clubs and activities led by students)
- students are encouraged to take initiatives, which are supported and facilitated; they are invited to express themselves and are listened to
- community service and solidarity actions are encouraged and valued, particularly around themes set collectively, which gives coherence to actions

Some ideas for action

establishment of a Student Council in primary school

creation of a "Community Service Week »

to expand on the IB program, during the high school years, a community service or international cooperation project will be defined by students during 10th grade and carried out during their last two years (jointly, IB and French tracks)

encourage students to propose clubs and projects and help them carry them out (provision of a budget, choice of projects by the students themselves)

development of peer tutoring

setting up a "citizen's notebook" that records students' initiatives and commitments

OBJECTIVE

To educate about media and social networks

- information is a major issue in our modern societies, the multiplication of information sources and the difficulty to distinguish their relevance must be the object of an education of our students
- understand the mechanisms of information production, learn to discern disinformation on the networks

- at the same time, it is important to be open to the opinions of others, and not to be locked into a monolithic vision of the world: in class, teachers will always try to show that there are different points of view

#### Some ideas for action

strengthen our education to media and social networks, particularly in conjunction with librarians and school counselors; a curriculum will be developed ("digital citizenship program")

development of a "fake news" education program

writing of a charter for the use of social networks, signed by all students

setting up a web radio

bringing in journalists from American and international media

#### OBJECTIVE

To become aware of the major issues of our time

- at the heart of our mission as a school is the opening up of our young people to the great questions that cross our societies, and the development of critical thinking, without inducing an ideology, but in the coherence of our values of openness, respect and equal dignity for all; our objective is that our students become adults, citizens of the world, capable of taking an informed stand
- our programs and projects integrate the keys to understanding social, political, geopolitical and environmental issues at all levels (local, regional, national, continental, global)
- mobilization around the issues of sustainable development is particularly important: our students, all the teams and parents initiate and implement projects, under the guidance of our Sustainable Development Coordinator; the school has set itself the objective of progressing in the different degrees of labeling proposed by the AEFÉ

#### Some ideas for action

each year, the school carries out concrete actions, which involve students, parents and staff

identification, in the programs, at all levels, of what makes it possible to sensitize our students and to open them to the various subjects, and thus to make our action visible and readable

involving students in projects that allow them to develop knowledge and take a stand (e.g. debate club, MUN, Rochakhaton, etc.)

creating an award for environmental commitment