

First Grade (CP) / First Grade Plus (CP Plus)

American Section Program

Curriculum information: www.americansection.org/academics/the-lower-school/first-grade-cp-first-grade-plus-cp-plus

Bilingual: Native-level English and French

Students are enrolled in the French public school system (see placement options below) then excused two half-days per week to attend their American Section classes.

Program choices: There are two tracks offered in first grade (CP).

- **First grade Mainstream (CP Mainstream)**

Children who enroll in this track must be native English speakers and be ready to learn to read and write simultaneously in two languages.

Class Schedule: Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings (six hours of classroom instruction, plus Art and Library).

Class Size: 18 on the Lycée International campus, 15 on the Ecole Schnapper campus.

- **First grade Plus (CP Plus)**

Children who enroll in this track are not necessarily native English speakers, but they do possess a good level of English language fluency. These students will receive targeted instruction to build vocabulary, reinforce grammar mechanics, and develop their oral English before focusing on reading in English later in the year.

This class is part of a two-year program beginning in first grade (CP) and continuing through second grade (CE1). At the end of the two-year cycle, students should be ready to integrate into the mainstream program for third grade (CE2).

Class Schedule: Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons (six hours of classroom instruction, plus Art and Library)

Class Size: 10-16

Placement

Estimated number of places available next year: 26-28 overall

Placement options (three):

- 1) Full-time on the Ecole Schnapper campus: The American Section welcomes approximately 75 students at this partner school located nearby in St. Germain. Students attend their American Section classes as well as their French classes on this site. This is the only placement option with extended hours offering daycare and study hall possibilities after school. We will have 10-12 full-time places available in CP on the Ecole Schnapper campus.
- 2) Externé on the Lycée campus: This is a part-time option in which students come to the Lycée campus two half-days per week for their American Section classes. The rest of the time they attend their local French school. Please note that the majority of all primary students enrolled at the Lycée International are *externés* (currently 750 students from 11 different sections). *Externé* students may request a full-time place in successive years, however, space remains limited each year. We expect to have 12-18 *externé* spaces become available next year (mostly in the CP Plus class).
- 3) Full-time on Lycée campus: There will be a limited number of full-time spaces available (2-4); priority will go to qualified non-Francophone candidates and current *externé* students.

Eligibility

Age: 6 years old

Candidates must be born in 2021 to enroll in this class. Please contact the Admissions Office if this is not the correct year for your child.

Level of English: Two tracks are available. Applicants must possess native-level English or near-native-level English to be considered for the program.

Applications

Applications should be submitted online via the American Section website from December 1 to January 22 for the following school year at: www.americansection.org/admissions/your-application After the deadline, please check our website for any further availability at this grade level.

Required documents: Birth certificate and photo. Complete instructions are available online once you log in.

Testing

Testing is conducted in English and is administered individually. It lasts approximately 45 minutes. Candidates will look at pictures and identify them with the teacher (vocabulary). They will then listen to a story and answer questions about it (listening and comprehension). Candidates must know all of their letters in English, upper and lower case, as well as the sounds of the alphabet (reading readiness).

Testing will take place from February 22, 2027 to April 2, 2027 and will be conducted in person whenever possible. Online testing is also available for families who live overseas.

French Immersion

There are no French-immersion classes available at this level. When possible, non-Francophone applicants are prioritized for full time places on the Lycée campus.

Admissions Timeline

December-January	Application file submitted
February-April	Testing
May	Acceptances sent

Updated 09/2026