

Second Grade (CE1) / Second Grade Plus (CE1 Plus)

American Section Program

Curriculum information:

www.americansection.org/academics/the-lower-school/second-grade-ce1-second-grade-ce1

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 Second grade (CE1).

- **Second grade Mainstream (CE1 Mainstream)**

For children who have native level English and who have completed a full reading and phonics program in that language in First grade.

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

Class Size: 20 (Lycée) and 15 (Ecole Schnapper)

- **Second grade Plus (CE1 Plus)**

For non-native speakers and native speakers who have a good level of English fluency but require targeted instruction to build vocabulary, reinforce grammar mechanics, and develop their oral English. 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 in third grade (CE2).

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

Class Size: 18 (Lycée)

Placement

Estimated number of places available next year: 8-12 places overall

Placement options (three):

- 1) Full-time at the Ecole Schnapper: 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 expect to have 0-2 places become available here.
- 2) Externé on the Lycée campus: This is a part-time option in which students come to the Lycée 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 will have 7 spaces available in our CE1 Plus class and expect to have 0-2 *externé* spaces become available in our CE1 Mainstream class next year.
- 3) Full-time on Lycée campus: Spaces are reserved for students who qualify for the French-immersion program (full-time bilingual places that become available will go first to currently enrolled *externé* students). We expect to have 1-2 places available in our French immersion program next year.

Eligibility

Age: 7 years old (Candidates must be born in 2020 to enroll in this class. Please contact the Admissions Office if this is not the case 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, photo, English grade reports for all candidates (two years including the current year), French grade reports for bilingual candidates (two years including the current year), and a teacher recommendation (form available online). 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). The final portion is a short dictation and some comprehension questions about a story (writing).

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

French Immersion/*Français Spécial*

This is a specialized track for candidates who do not yet speak French or who have very little knowledge of the language. The class is composed of 15-20 new students coming from all over the world. Students work with a specialized French teacher from September to June to develop their knowledge of French while maintaining their native level of English with the American Section. As the year progresses, other subjects (Math, Science, History) are also added to the program by the French teacher. The program is challenging and requires good study habits, adaptability, and a motivation to learn a new language even from the youngest candidates. By the end of year, French immersion students should be ready to join the mainstream bilingual program.

If you are considering this option, we recommend that you contact the Admissions Office to go through details of the program before applying.

Timeline

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

Updated 09/2026