

Notre Dame International High School Paris

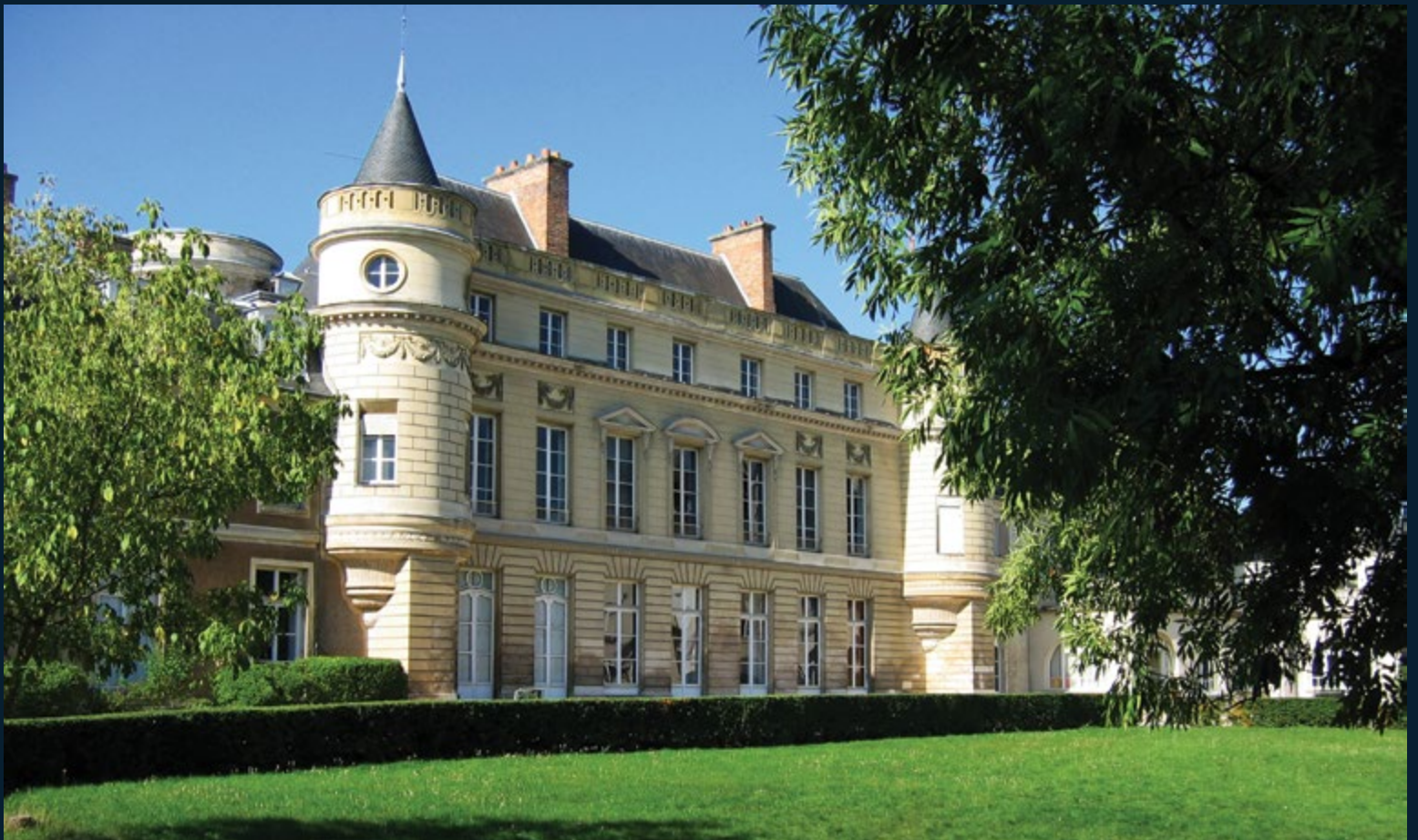


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NOTRE DAME INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Daniel Zicari
NDIHS Principal



Notre-Dame International High School (NDIHS), a private American High School (from grades 9 to 12), established in 2010 is located just outside the booming Paris metropolis in France. The school introduces an exciting opportunity to learn the French language and culture while attending an American academic program in English.

Even though the NDIHS program is based on an American curriculum leading to a U.S. Diploma, the school's unique positioning as an American program within a French school, gives students the choice between different academic trajectories (European or American).

NDIHS welcomes students from a variety of international backgrounds, with a wide-range of academic and personal goals. Notre-Dame International High school is a college preparatory high school that welcomes students from all over the world. NDIHS works to help students acquire the tools and knowledge to prosper in today's ever increasing global community.

Our international curriculum focuses on the development of critical thinking and communication skills, helping students to become culturally literate while gaining a strong sense of personal and social responsibility. NDIHS encourages the practical application of academic and cultural understanding and promotes the critical, analytical, and technical skills students need to lead tomorrow's world.



NACEL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

The school is part of the **Nacel International School System** (NISS)'s community of American international schools. Nacel has American schools located in the United States, China, South Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Poland, and France, giving students the unique opportunity to experience several campuses during their High School studies.

Significant global changes suggest a need for corresponding changes in the ways in which we think about ourselves and the world. We believe that students must be **culturally literate and competent problem-solvers**. Our High School curriculum emphasizes the development of **critical thinking** skills as well as **intercultural learning** and **communication skills** within a college preparatory academic framework.

Teachers are able to focus on the individual instructional needs of their students, particularly on the **development of their English proficiency**.

We strive to develop students' self-awareness, social consciousness, leadership skills and creativity through our curriculum, enrichment activities, involvement in the arts, clubs, and study abroad programs. We recognize the importance of giving our students an enjoyable and memorable high school experience, and encourage positive interaction through field trips, sports, and social events. Students are encouraged to take an active role in shaping the culture and climate of their international school, making it a comfortable place to grow and learn. Ultimately, we strive to help students add meaning to their **international education by integrating learning into their life experiences and vice versa**.

AMERICAN CURRICULAR EMPHASIS

The Nacel International School System's established graduation requirements correspond to the *North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)* guidelines for college preparatory schools, and meet or exceed the Minnesota State graduation standards. All graduates from NDHS earn a U.S. High School diploma.

In addition to the regular American High School curriculum, Notre-Dame International High School gives international students the opportunity to take AP courses in various study areas such as AP Literature, AP World History, AP Human Geography, AP Calculus, AP Environmental Science, AP French and AP Art History*.

*This list is updated every year and is subject to change.

48 semester credits* are required for High School graduation:

- 8 Language Arts credits
- 6 Mathematics credits
- 7 Social Studies credits
- 6 Science credits
- 2 Physical Education credits
- 1 Health credit
- 2 Fine /Performing Arts credits
- 1 Technology credit
- 6 Foreign Language credits (4 in the same language)
- 9 Elective credits

* 1 credit is earned for each semester course.

FRENCH CURRICULAR EMPHASIS

In addition to the American curriculum, the school offers an extensive French language and culture program as well as enrichment courses taught by French teachers. Courses administered by the French school (Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux") include: French language, Art, Music, and Physical Education. Students with an advanced level of French may be enroll in additional French coursework according to preference and French language proficiency.

Students can **travel within France (or neighboring countries) on mini-seminar field trips** and are required to complete an academic portfolio item, submitted to faculty and/or presented to their classmates. Some project topics may be shared, allowing for collaborative work and cooperative learning to take place.





U.S. High School diploma is recognized by American colleges and universities all over the world as well as at the local level in various countries but may require equivalency recognition or meet specific criteria.

US COLLEGE COUNSELING & ADMISSIONS PROCESS

NDIHS administers a college preparation course to support and guide upper-level students during the college search and application process. By creating a special course dedicated to college preparation, NDIHS focuses the attention on the individual student and provides added support as students navigate the increasingly complex university admissions process. In addition to assisting students in the search for universities and colleges, and the admissions process (completing applications, essays, etc.) our college preparation includes writing a resume, considering financial aid and scholarship opportunities, registering and preparing for the SAT and TOEFL.

NDIHS also provides students with access to information for all English and French speaking University programs in France. Our students visit College Fairs, some of which are particularly focused on international or American colleges and universities. Universities may also come to NDIHS to present programming to students on-site.

TEST PREPARATION

We offer students an **intensive SAT preparation** course and students can sit for the SAT test at the exam center located in Paris. The school may also offer **intensive TOEFL preparation** on location to help students improve their test scores or give them the opportunity to prepare and take TOEFL tests in language schools located in the United Kingdom

or Ireland. These intensive preparation classes are offered during school holidays.

FRENCH UNIVERSITY STUDY

The diploma issued by NDIHS is a U.S. High School diploma which has to be recognized individually as equivalent to the Baccalaureat (French diploma system) if applying to French universities. Each French University has its own admission criteria for holders of foreign qualifications. The student's French language proficiency level is also taken into account as this is a key factor in the student's ability to excel. They must be capable of understanding college courses administered in French.

To help students with French language acquisition, we offer intensive French courses during school holidays and before the start of each school year. French homestays are also available for students who want language and cultural immersion. If, during the application process, the student is found to be academically admissible but does not have the adequate language proficiency level, the French university will offer conditional admission upon completion of French language coursework. Once completed, students receive full admission and may enroll in regular coursework.

Additional university programming, such as engineering, business and Beaux-Arts, etc. are also open to students. These schools often have an alternative admission process for international students.

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE

Recent graduates from Notre-Dame International High School have enrolled in colleges and universities in various countries around the world: Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Tabasco (Mexico), Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad (Serbia), Canisius College, SUNY Fredonia, Penn State University Abington/University Park, Arizona State University, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, American University of Beirut, Fordham University, Eugene Lang, Marymount Manhattan College, Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus), University of Sheffield's Law School, LSBF (London School of Business and Finance), Regent American College London (member of the Webster University network), Hult University of Business, Ekonomski fakultet – Zagreb (Croatia), Russian State Medical University, University of S. Florida, Barry University, Santa Barbara University, San Diego University, University of Florida, European University of Barcelona, Caucasus Business School of Georgia, Free University of Georgia, Tbilisi Teaching University, University of St Thomas, Atelier Hourde annee préparatoire aux écoles de creation, Savannah College of Art and Design, Parsons Paris- the New School for Design, Penn State Erie, University of California at Santa Cruz, Hult International Business School London, San Jose State University, University of Colorado, Kings College London and Kaplan International College London.

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One of our students was recently admitted to the **Wharton School at UPenn**. This is consistently rated among the top three business schools in the US after Stanford and Harvard. She has also been awarded an excellent financial aid package and will be attending Wharton in the fall 2014.



Notre-Dame International High School is located on the campus of our French Host School: Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux" (NDLO). The educational mission of Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux" is "Growing up Together". The goal is to prepare students to become autonomous and responsible adults. The school offers individualized student support and establishes true relationships between students and the community. Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux" creates an environment for community, freedom, purpose, and involvement.

The school currently offers six French sections: a Kindergarten (5 classes), a Primary School (21 classes), a Middle School (32 classes), a General and Technical Secondary School (29 classes), and post-secondary school technical degrees programs (Management, International Business, Business Communications, and Chemistry).

AN ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY SCHOOL

The school has a complete educational program concerned with environmental issues for schools involved in ecology and environment protection. The program works on five main issues: food, biodiversity, waste management, water and energy supply. Students are invited to investigate sustainable development and various environmental issues. The school was awarded a project in "historical garden management" following students' work on plants used in the 13 hectare campus.

HISTORY

Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux" was established in 1929, on the site of the Château de Verneuil, by the Congregation of Notre Dame. The school is located in the heart of a beautiful, 13 hectare historical park, with gardens and several trees over a century old. The Château de Verneuil has a history going back to the 16th century when it was the residence of a family in the French nobility, until the French Revolution. The Château was abandoned in the years following the Revolution but was reclaimed by one of its legitimate heirs, Hervé de Tocqueville in 1802. The son of Hervé de Tocqueville, the famous political thinker and historian Alexis de Tocqueville, spent his adolescence at the Château. The Château also welcomed the great French writer, François-René de Chateaubriand, while owned by the Tocqueville family. In 1817, the property was sold and had multiple owners until 1929, when the Château was purchased by the Congregation of Notre Dame.



LOCATION

Notre-Dame International High School in France is located on the campus of Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux", in the residential town of Verneuil-sur-Seine, 38 kilometers from Paris city center. Verneuil-sur-Seine, located on the River Seine, is "a town in the countryside", offering all the facilities of a residential town, the proximity of Paris, as well as a rich natural environment, with parks, gardens, forest, rivers and lakes.

From 1000 inhabitants in 1930, Verneuil has grown to 15 000 inhabitants today. This former village has become a real town close to the Paris city center. The town is "young", with 57% of the inhabitants under 39 years of age; culture is a must, with a facility dedicated to dance (Espace Maurice Béjart) and regular cultural events. It offers a swimming pool, a skate park, soccer fields, tennis fields and a riding camp, as well as trekking facilities.

The school is 35 minutes from Paris by public transportation. The school is only 500 meters away from the train station where the students can take a train to the Paris city center (Gare St Lazare); the journey takes about 35 minutes on the regional train.

Situated in the center of the Yvelines region, Verneuil-sur-Seine provides a great location for students to explore not only Paris, but also the nearby regions of Normandy and the Loire Valley. The Yvelines is home to the famous Palace of Versailles and Thoiry Castle along with prominent businesses such as Bull, Thomson, Grand Marnier, EADS (European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company), Peugeot, Renault, Bouygues, and so on.

FACILITIES

Today, the campus welcomes a large community of approximately 3000 pupils.

There are roughly 230 staff members including teachers, administrators and maintenance staff who oversee the students and the school's facilities and gardens (on a total of 13 hectares of land). Investments are made to the campus on an annual basis to improve and modernize the facilities offered to students. The school recently completed a major reconstruction project resulting in new and expanded science labs as well as a brand new student cafeteria.

Since Notre-Dame "Les Oiseaux" provides college level education, the school has excellent science and computer labs, with state-of-the-art science instruments.

The facilities offered on Campus include:

- Classrooms
- Outdoor fields
- Computer rooms
- Brand new science labs
- Amphitheatre and audiovisual room
- Modernized school libraries
- Arts and Music rooms
- Two indoor gyms for basketball, handball, fitness and tennis activities
- A self-service cafeteria with a kitchen on location, and an open cafe

SCHOOL LIFE*

The school follows a standard schedule in which students attend 6 classes per day, 5 days a week (8.35am to 4.30pm). The campus offers a variety of extra-curricular activities for students. Extra-curricular activities which students may be able to join include:

- Student Council
- Model UN Club including participation in international conferences
- English Mentor Club
- Film Club
- Badminton
- Choir
- Drama Club
- Arts and culture club (teacher led tours of Paris neighborhoods)
- Exercise class
- Service and volunteer work
- Yearbook
- Travel blog/newsletter

- Prom/social committee
- Line Dancing Club

*This list is updated every year and is subject to change



NDIHS AT A GLANCE



ACADEMIC PLUS

- Graduation opportunities after completion of the U.S. High School program;
- Bi-cultural and bilingual school staff;
- Individualized learning through small class sizes;
- Strong Science, Mathematics, English, Arts and Foreign Language course offerings;
- Support and supervision of the Nacel International School System's network and opportunities to experience several campuses;
- Long tradition of excellent education and community spirit of the French partner school;
- French language support classes and opportunity to study French from Beginner level;
- Development of critical thinking skills and intercultural learning;
- International student body (so far 20 citizenships represented at school).

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LOCATION PLUS

- Proximity to Paris city center (35 minutes by train) with opportunities for sightseeing in Paris and France and discovering French and European culture;
- Safe residential area and exclusive surroundings;
- Beautiful green and wooded campus;
- Efficient and comfortable mix of historical buildings and modern facilities;
- Excellent science and computer labs, up to date science instruments;
- Supervised and modernized 5 day/week boarding quarters ;
- Various hosting opportunities at the weekend (homestay, Paris residence);
- Placement in local French host families for students with the required French skills;
- Excellent catering facilities on campus;
- Various extracurricular clubs and activities on and off campus.





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