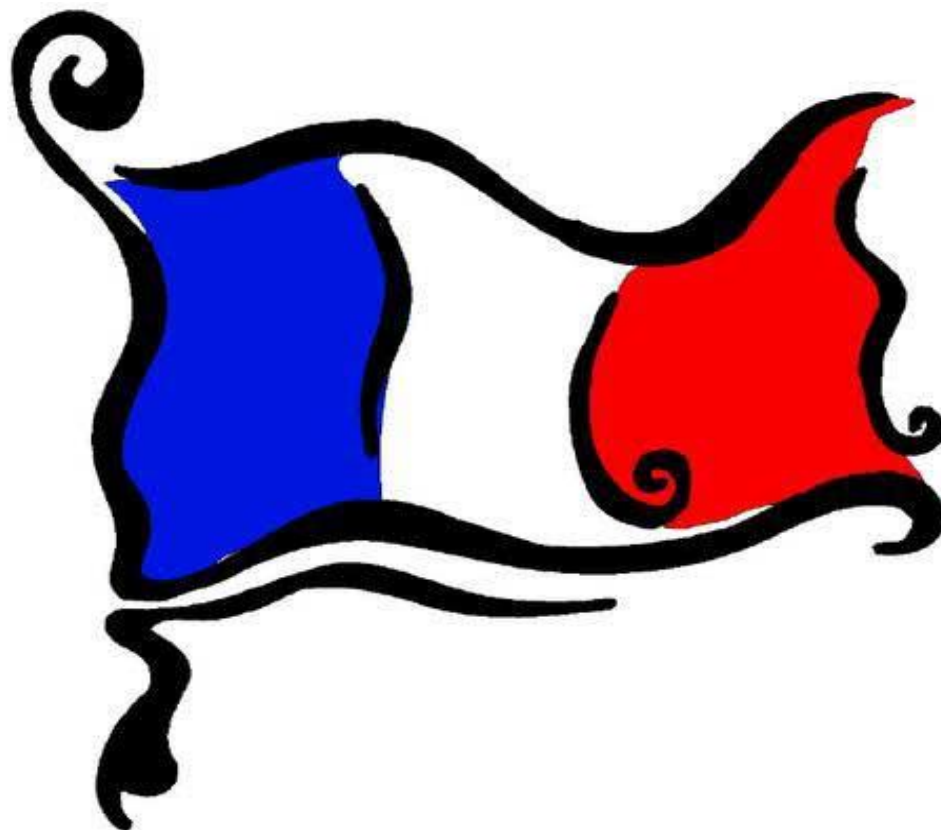
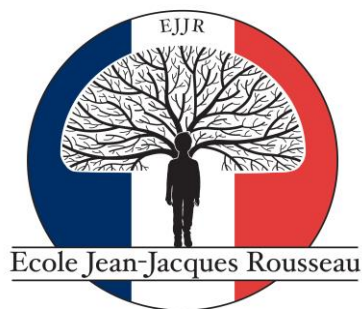


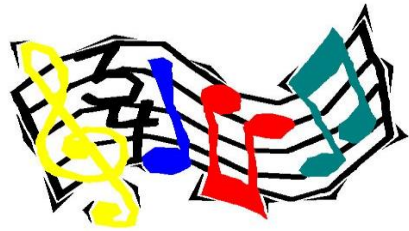
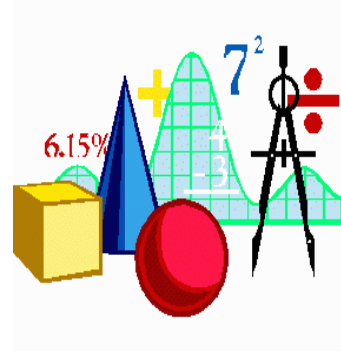
When French Immersion



Meets Academic Excellence



Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau
PREP FRENCH SCHOOL OF AUSTIN



Challenging
Motivating
Excelling





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About *Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

What kind of Program is *Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau*?

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau is a preschool to Grade 8 French Preparatory Immersion Program, nonsectarian, privately and family owned, where the talents of bright and motivated children are recognized, nurtured and developed to their full potential. The best education develops individual potential, and that is central to the ethos of the program. By recognizing that every child is unique, the program is able to provide opportunities that allow each child to reach his or her maximum potential in a language immersion context. The program's ultimate goal is to prepare students for life by giving them a gift of academic excellence and of a second, relevant language (French).

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau has been providing an excellent education to American, French and international students in Austin since 2005. Beginning at age 3 and continuing through Grade 8, our students thrive in a unique multicultural, multi-language learning environment where instruction is provided in French and English with optional Arabic and Spanish courses.

The school curricula are an advanced French international baccalaureate program, a curriculum, world renowned for its rigor and strength into preparing students for university and beyond. This comprehensive curriculum is taught in reduced size classes, tailored to the students' needs, and by highly qualified teachers, while enriched by a performing arts and string music program.

The curriculum flexibility, following the learning style and type of intelligence of each student, fits his/her needs, and not the other way around, allowing students to reach their full academic potential and at an early age.

Through a multilingual curriculum and international exposure, our school students develop their intellect and character in a bilingual and bi-cultural environment, and are better prepared for

their future in a multicultural workforce and global environment. As our world becomes fully interconnected, succeeding in the 21st century will require new ways of thinking, strong language skills and an open mind. Speaking other languages and understanding other cultures is an undeniable need for tomorrow's world.

What makes the Program unique?

What sets us apart is the individually paced program of learning we offer to our students. What makes French School of Austin such a rewarding educational experience for students is not only the specific curriculum that is taught but how we teach it.

- An accelerated, advanced and balanced International French Curriculum leading to the prestigious International Option of the Baccalaureate.
- A variety of teaching resources to address individual learning styles. Students work in small, ability-based groups. They move through groups when they are ready, not just at a planned interval.
- Small class size and low student-teacher ratio enable teachers to incorporate creative learning methodologies that are experiential and “hands-on”.
- Highly qualified and experienced teachers who understand the needs and development of highly motivated and talented children.
- Small program size and cross teaching which create an intimate learning atmosphere where no student can ever be invisible or “fall through the cracks”.



Why Choose Our School; ***Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau***

Reduced classroom size:

Reducing class size, particularly in the early grades, is one of the few educational strategies shown to increase learning and academic achievement. The Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the US Department of Education, concludes that class size reduction has proven to increase student achievement through rigorous, randomized experiments -- the "gold standard" of research. Also, studies from Tennessee, Wisconsin, and elsewhere demonstrate that students who are assigned to smaller classes in grades K-3rd do better in every way that can be measured: they score higher on tests, receive better grades, and exhibit improved attendance. The maximum size of an EJJR classroom is 12.

One size does not fit it all:

In most of the public and private educational systems presently available, students must fit the established teaching requirements of the school curriculum and not vice versa. At Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau, we are proud to offer a flexibility that allows the school curriculum to fit the child's learning style, type of intelligence and academic needs. This can only be accomplished in the reduced classroom size of our school.

Music & Performing Art Program:

As has been well said by many artists and educational professionals, art may not solve problems; it does, however, make us be aware of their existence. On the other hand, it is common knowledge that arts education does contribute to problem solving. Years of research show that it's closely linked to almost everything that we would like for our children: academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement,

and equitable opportunity. Involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau offers a string music program with mandatory violin instruction as well as optional voice, guitar and cello classes. Piano classes may be offered if the students and their families choose an additional optional instrument. In the performing arts program, JJR students have mandatory choir and performing arts sessions working toward two school performances every year.

A Language Program:

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau is the only French school in Austin that not only offers a ‘true’ French education but also the instruction in one of the languages the U.S. State department has named as a “critical language”: Arabic.

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau is taking advantage of the very small ‘language window’ opportunity of our young students to allow to learn Arabic at an early age and starting at Kindergarten level. This early study and teaching of Arabic, known as one of the most difficult languages of the world, will allow students to not only learn a new way of moving their pen, a new way of reading and how to produce foreign sounds, but early on, learn to wrap their mind around a different way of thinking, a different worldview.

Neurophysiologists believe Chinese or Arabic could be described as world's most difficult languages. While linguistic specialists say that complications in learning a foreign language depend on the language carried by the person who studies a foreign language, the study and learning of Arabic for native English speakers is listed as the most difficult task in the language difficulty ranking list of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI).

We strongly believe that the best gift parents can offer to their children is the gift of languages. The study of foreign languages is simply the gift that keeps on giving. It provides a person with multiple perspectives from which to view the world. This path of language learning will not only open your child's mind and heart to new cultures and worldview, while on his/her strong path for becoming a global citizen, it also provides the child with an undeniable edge in their academic pursuits and their future careers in fields such as diplomacy, intelligence, business, engineering, international development and academia.



La Maternelle



Preschool level in the French system is called *Maternelle* or *Cycle 1* or “*cycle des apprentissages premiers*” which combines the three and four years old. Depending on the school year, Kindergarten level may be combined with the preschool level to complete a full three years cycle level.

Following the guidelines of the French Ministry of Education, our students are 100% immersed in French all day Monday through Friday. This full French immersion is essential for our students to build strong language, cultural and academic skills preparing them for a rigorous French elementary program.

The curriculum combines the renowned and rigorous French preschool program combined with Montessori tools covering practical life, reading and writing materials with many “pre-Montessori” materials that are typically used with this age group even in non-Montessori settings (puzzles, stringing beads, etc...).

From the very first day of school, the French teacher addresses the children in French. Children quickly learn the meanings of common words and phrases, as they begin to use these familiar terms themselves very quickly. Knowing that listening comprehension develops more quickly than speaking ability, children will adapt very easily to the French atmosphere of the classrooms. By the end of the first year most children readily understand the French they hear every day and they begin to ask

permissions and communicate well with their teachers. By kindergarten, with the addition of reading skills, most students become fluent.



About the Prep Program

What is the Elementary Years Program?

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Following the French System, our students are early exposed to an international challenging curriculum while immersing them in the French Language, the main language of instruction. The focus of the elementary program is the full language acquisition while stressing academics as a preparation for the Option International of the Baccalaureate. Language, Music, Math, Art, Science, Geography, History, personal and social education are the core of the program. The intensive prep program starts in Grade Six throughout Grade Eight. They learn study methods which they will use through middle, high school and later in university.



What is the Prep Program?

Middle School

The Prep Program is a rigorous preparatory program designed for highly motivated French speaking students in Grade Six, Seven and Eight. Course work includes advanced Math, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Latin, History, Geography, English, Computers, French Literature, History of Arts, Visual Arts, and Music. Students of the Secondary Years program choose officially their third language (Langue Vivante 3) by Grade Seven.

About the teachers

Who makes up Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau team?

French School of Austin staff consists of the Founders, the Director, up to 6 teachers who have been hired through the years to bring to the program the level of academic excellence and expertise.

What credentials the teachers hold?

Each of the program's teachers holds a certification to teach from their country of origin. All teachers are proficient in French and native speakers of their language of instruction (French, English, Spanish, and Arabic). All the faculty staff, including the founder and the director, cross teaches at all levels in each program and have at least a Bachelor's degree in his or her teaching field. Two of the teachers hold a Master's Degree and a PhD.

What difference do the faculty and staff make?

Because of the specificity of the program, the faculty members, teachers who have been carefully selected for the program. The Lead Teachers have taught in similar programs abroad from at least four to forty years. While each teacher has his or her own style and personality, and come from a variety of backgrounds, they all share the same passion, philosophy, training and teaching

experience for academic excellence. The teachers range in age from 28 to 74. More important than programs, curricula, and books, the quality of the teachers and staff who spend hours with the children is the most important factor in our students' success and happiness.

About the students



Where do the students of the program come from?

Approximately 60 percent of the students come from our preschool program, 40 percent come from other French schools. 90 percent of our Middle School students come from our elementary program and the rest as transfers from other French schools from other countries and United States.

How many students attend the program?

The program has the lowest student to teacher ratio in the city of Austin, with 8:1 in preschool, 12:1 in Elementary, 10:1 in Middle school. The program has a maximum capacity of fifty-four students.

What kind of diversity exists in the student body?

Despite the small size of the program and its specificity, the diversity among the student body is very high in terms of cultural backgrounds. Staff and students represent several countries and cultures from Europe, Africa, Middle East, North and South America.

What sort of students are a good fit for the program?

The Program is one of the most challenging of the French system. Students are prepared for the prestigious exam of the International Option of the Baccalaureate or the International Baccalaureate in the US. Because some habits are very difficult to undo at a later age, most of the successful students have attended Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau from an early age or similar prep programs elsewhere. In general, students who are a best fit for the program share common characteristics: they are all French-speaking, bright and scholastically motivated.



Where do our Middle School students attend High School and College?

Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau program is designed to prepare students for the Pre-IB and the IB program or for the French International Option of the Baccalaureate for High School. The IB program at Anderson High or the Performing Arts Program such as McCallum High is a best fit for our students. Our students also transfer to public or private high schools that offer an advanced level of academics such as Regents School of Austin, St Andrews Episcopal School, St Stephen Episcopal School, Hill Country Christian School, Liberal Art and Science Academy (LASA), Brentwood Christian School, Ann Richards School, Hyde Park Schools, Round Rock Christian Academy, Austin High School, Akins High School, Westwood High School and Round Rock High School.



Since the beginning of the Middle School program in 2005, our students have been accepted in the *classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles (CPGE)*, commonly called classes prépas or prépas, part of the French post-secondary education system, such as the prestigious schools of Lycée Louis-le-Grand and Lycée Henri-IV in Paris, France. Students have attended Paris-Sorbonne (Paris I & IV), the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA) of Lyon, Johns-Hopkins University, Rice University and Georgetown University. Because of the high standards of the program and its bilingualism, students can attend prestigious French or American universities.



About the Curriculum

What are the contents of the curriculum?

Mathematics:

The curriculum begins with general mathematics in Grade Four through Grade Six, pre-Algebra and/or Algebra in Grade seven, advanced Algebra 1 and 2 in Grade Eight. Geometry is integrated into all Grades from Grade two to Grade 8. The methodology follows an inductive approach in which students first study and solve mathematical problems, and then learn the mathematical theories that underlie each problem. Students focus on mathematics fundamentals and building mathematical understanding, with an emphasis on concrete applications of mathematical content. Course content at different grade levels includes: numbers and operations, decimals and fractions, data analysis, probability, technology, pre-algebra and algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus and calculus.

Science:

An integrated approach to science is emphasized throughout the years. Students receive a broad spectrum of exposure to several disciplines. Grade Three to Six students begin with a combination of earth science and life science. Emphasis is placed on environmental features, life and habitat, organic and inorganic matter, food production and its environmental impact, and the unity and diversity of life forms. The primary focus in science is to extend students' understanding of the world. Observing, questioning, classifying, measuring, testing, analyzing are necessary skills to become a responsible and wise citizen. In Grades Seven and Eight, students explore the study of chemistry and physics.

History & Geography:

These courses combine the two disciplines. In history, students are expected to understand the purpose of knowing history and develop a worldwide appreciation of culture, religion, law, social

structure, and politics. Lessons begin with a study of pre-history and early man, continue through ancient civilizations and extend to our twenty-first century world. Geography lessons focus on themes: physical and climatic characteristics of the world, human environment and interaction, migration and population, and regions and diversity in landscapes. The aim is to give students the keys to understanding the contemporary world by studying its historical heritage and its modern geography.

Language Arts and Literature:

The language Arts and Literature curriculum focuses on a full range of writing experiences, a broad spectrum of literature, and the refinement of oral and presentation skills. Skills are developed through the study of the literature and cultures of early civilizations, as well as through folk tales, ancient myths, novels, poetry, historical texts, and media articles. Starting in Grade four and five, and the beginning of middle school, a focus is on mastering the narrative mode. Descriptive, persuasive, and informative modes are generally studied. Students continue to do major research papers. Through written and oral reports, they practice grammar and writing skills, and develop confidence in their speaking abilities. Our primary objective is to develop critical thinking and communication skills, and a strong interest in Literature.

Modern Languages:

Throughout the Elementary program, students are exposed to Spanish at least twice a week. Starting in Grade One, students are offered the option to take Arabic with a daily exposure or Spanish on weekly basis. As part of the Middle School program, students are required to take a modern language as their official third language. In Grade Seven, students make a carefully planned choice to study one of two languages: ***Spanish, Arabic.*** Students will study the same language through Grades Seven, and Eight. Modern language courses prepare students for continued study of the language in high school, and lay a strong foundation for future advancement and learning of modern languages. In addition of Modern Languages, ***Latin*** is offered

starting Grade Seven. The study of Latin continues all through Middle School.

History of Arts, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Music:

These subjects are part of our core curriculum. Every student participates in courses in all three areas throughout the years. Our curriculum of ***History of Arts*** is divided into six sections which are studied in middle school: ***Arts of Space*** where the students discover the history of world monuments, museums and World Heritage. ***Arts of Sound*** allow the students to learn about famous musicians, how to listen and identify famous composers such as Rimski-Korsakov, Berlioz, Rossini, Bizet, Mozart, Liszt, Strauss, Verdi etc.... ***Arts of Language*** exposes the students to the history and characteristics of all type of poetry. In ***Arts of the Daily Life***, students learn about painters, sculptors, plastician artists such as Caillebotte, Munch, DuBuffet... Students also discover the joy of learning about Live Arts in ***the Arts of Live Show***.

In ***the Visual Arts*** curriculum, the main focus is on the study of the “object”. Students explore two approaches, practice and theory. These two approaches allow students to develop their creativity as they learn how to express themselves and how to analyze masterpieces. As students continue, the history component of visual arts is an important part of their cultural knowledge. ***The Performing Arts*** concentrate on acting and learning the basics of dramatic culture. In the Drama Club, students experience group projects and group responsibilities. Developing their oral skills in front of an audience and enhancing their confidence are also part of their learning.

During ***music*** courses, students learn about and develop an appreciation for music through a variety of activities including learning about musical instruments, studying music theory, and learning Solfege. Students also learn about music history. In addition to the mandatory violin program, and starting Grade Two, students are offered Guitar and Piano and perform throughout the school year.



What's the next step?

What is involved in the Application process?

A good first step for parents is to complete an application for admission, attend one of our open houses, and/or schedule a meeting with the founder or the Director of Ecole Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Parents are requested to submit report cards for the year prior from the applicant's current school. Next, applicants for the Middle School Level or Elementary transfer students will need to schedule a date to take the **Program Evaluation Test**, which is given in two or three parts.

When is the Application deadline?

Applicants who are applying for admission are handled on case by case basis. Admission deadline is February 1. A letter or an email containing the program's admission decision will be mailed to the parents. All tuitions agreements and forms must be received by the program by date deadline specified on the tuition agreement.

How many spaces are available?

The program has only 12-20 spots open for each school year.

What costs are involved?

Both Programs have an application fee of \$100. A new student fee of \$1000 applies for all new students, the first year of admission. The educational fee ranges from \$400 in preschool, \$500 in Elementary to \$700 in Middle School. Annual tuition ranges from \$6,500 to \$11,500. Tuition usually includes the annual violin fee when applicable.

Financial Aid & French Scholarships (Bourses Scolaires)

The program offers **scholarships for French expatriate families. Tuition Reduction Program** is available for eligible

families including a tuition reduction with exchange of services. Additional discount may be available for siblings or multiple families with three or more children. For more information, visit our Financial Aid page on our website at www.frenchschoolofaustin.org

When can we meet?

Complete an inquiry form to **attend an open house or schedule a private meeting** with the director to ask more questions about our preparatory program to find out if whether or not we are a good fit for your child. Also, check our website www.frenchschoolofaustin.org for more details on the programs, updates and events.



