

FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Is Rochambeau School bilingual?

No. The language of instruction, from nursery school/kindergarten through the baccalaureate, is French, but we offer students instruction in English, which allows them to transfer, under the best of conditions, into the American system. Instruction is recognized by the French Ministry of Education and accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Why is tuition charged when education in France and in certain other schools specializing in French teaching abroad is free?

Even though it is an institution registered with the French National Ministry of Education, the school is legally a private American association. The financial contribution from France covers 10% of the operating costs. Ninety percent of the school's costs are covered by tuition fees charged to the families.

Will my child have a good command of English?

English is taught beginning in nursery school/kindergarten, and courses are organized into groups, according to individual levels, starting in the second year of elementary school. Students change groups as they make progress.

Are all the students French?

Depending on the year, fifty to sixty different nationalities are represented in the school, which makes it a true international school. On average, half of the students are of French nationality, just under one-fourth are American, and just under one-third are divided among fifty nationalities.

At what age may a child start nursery school/kindergarten?

To enter the younger section of nursery school/kindergarten, a child must be three years old by December 31 of the academic year in progress. Children are accepted in the older section at the age of five.

What is the French Baccalaureate?

At the close of the final year (the terminale), the French baccalaureate is the culmination of a secondary education. In France, it opens doors to higher education. Organized over the course of two years, it combines written and oral exams in all the disciplines studied. The French baccalaureate is a rigorous set of exams, for which the student's entire education has prepared him. Students choose concentrations in specialized academic tracks for the French baccalaureate. The tracks (the séries of the baccalaureate) determine the disciplines upon which a student is tested at the baccalaureate, as well as the depth with which these disciplines are covered by the courses and the exam.

What is the American high school diploma?

The high school diploma is the completion of secondary school in the United States. It does not require that a student complete certain exams in order to receive it. It is completed through the continued coursework, or the receipt of credit, in designated disciplines over four years of high school.

When do the Rochambeau students receive the American high school diploma?

Rochambeau students, who complete the necessary requirements as designated by the State of Maryland, i.e. who have followed or caught up on the two requested American History courses in addition to the normal French program, will receive the high school diploma at the end of their première, i.e. one year earlier than in an American high school.

Can one obtain both diplomas?

Yes. The American high school diploma, in conjunction with the French baccalaureate, presents an attractive profile and opens doors to higher education in the United States, Canada, France, as well as other countries in Europe. Students have the option of leaving Lycée Rochambeau at the time they receive their high school diploma and going on to pursue higher education in the United States. However, more than 95% percent of the students choose to remain at Rochambeau, and thus will receive both the high school diploma and their French baccalaureate. As compared with a high school diploma alone, the French baccalaureate covers many subjects in great depth, essentially designating the receipt of the baccalaureate as advanced level coursework.

Is the international option of the baccalaureate (OIB) the same as the International Baccalauréat (known as “de Genève”)?

No, OIB is an option organized by the French Ministry of Education: candidates sit History and Geography tests in English. This option is part of the baccalaureate. The French baccalaureate is recognized worldwide, which is not the case of the International baccalaureate (“bac from Geneva”), the latter being less demanding in terms of acquired knowledge.

Where do Rochambeau students go for higher education?

Roughly one-third of graduates enter colleges in the United States (from Harvard, Stanford and Chicago to the University of Virginia and Maryland locally), one-third leave for higher education in Canada (which offers graduates preferential conditions for admission), and the other third complete post secondary education in Europe (notably, preparatory courses and French and British universities.) ■