



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Our school-wide commitment is to the academic achievement of our students

This week you will have two opportunities to witness the academic growth of your child. The student-led conferences allow our students to show-off some of their individual work, and the end of year report cards include results from our standardized testing in English.

The French School administered two tests this school year to keep track of student progress in English. The tests provide an overall content RIT score as well as goal RIT ranges. The tests are adaptive and are similar to the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests for grades three and up.

The NWEA MAP test is a leveled test meaning each student sees different questions, getting harder or less difficult depending on their prior responses. The adaptive nature of the test means that the final score is a function of how difficult the questions were that the student answered correctly. The score or RIT (Rausch Unit) is named after the person who invented

this type of assessment. RIT scores are divided into 10-point intervals or ranges. The range of RIT scores is different for each subject area test. For reading, the RIT range is 140-249. For Math, the RIT range is 150-above 269. These ranges cover pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. RIT scores may be compared to normative scores of students around the country who have also taken the MAP test. RIT scores for an individual student are also used to measure student growth over time.

We have strategic plans in place to address students at every level of this academic continuum. Students who score at the lower end will receive more intense small group instruction during the day and will be encouraged to attend after school classes that focus on specific skills. Students who score above this average will be challenged in both languages with literature and assignments that target their ability levels. These

students will also be supported in their math development through differentiation and individual goal setting. The PYP units we teach offer a high level of academic customization for all students. We will also be offering a wide array of after school activities, clubs and teams to challenge and stimulate.

It is very beneficial for the school to have this data as we look ahead and plan for raising student achievement in all subject areas. We will be examining whole school, grade level and student specific trends as we plan our future instruction. Our goal as a school is an advancement of 1.5 grade levels for each student each year.

As we all transition to the new school year, you can expect consistent and reliable feedback concerning your child's academic progress.

Some Accomplishments

Reading Workshop

One of the professional development focuses this year was on establishing the Reading Workshop in each classroom. The French School staff worked together on an eight week professional development schedule. The teachers studied and learned the critical aspects of successful reading workshops. They then prepared lessons and activities to support literacy in the workshop. Finally, they collected data concerning the progress of their students and reflected on their practices with an eye towards improvement. This was a very successful school-wide project that incorporated the purchasing of new leveled French reading books. It was a great time for collaboration and learning for the teachers, and it immediately impacted student learning and attitude towards reading. An uninterrupted block of time was created in each schedule to support this work.

Title 1 Reading

The staff designed and implemented a Title 1 reading plan that put targeted students in direct small-group reading instruction during the day. This immediately impacted the school. The students had constant contact with a teacher who became their literacy advocate. The students began to see success in their small groups and this attitude made its way back to the classroom. We also created an after school book club. This was taught in English (L1) and was

organized around leveled reading groups. At the end of the year book club celebration with the Title 1 families, each child was awarded a certificate, a summer reading log and a book to take home for the summer.

Library Books

The French School saw great growth in its library plan, organization and support this year. The school recruited numerous parents to help catalogue all of the books. We purchased a catalogue system to track the books, and we had a highly-successful French Book Fair that sold \$4,000 for the school library. There is a committee in place to reach the goal of increasing the number of books in the library by 5,000.

After School Programs

The French School has created some strong partnerships with parents and the community to support a diverse array of after school programs. This year we created a partnership with The St. Louis Chess Center. They come four times each week to teach groups of students how to play chess. Over 30 children are involved with this program. We reached out this year to a dance instructor who has over 20 students learning tap and ballet. We also had numerous parents sponsor sports and other activities throughout the school year. None of these programs would have been possible without the teachers, parents and interns working together.



Violin

This year we created a partnership with the Music department at the University of Missouri St. Louis. We have two instructors who come to school to teach interested students violin and the viola. Currently 13 students and one teacher are participating in this program. We are actively seeking instrument donors. It is wonderful to see this growing group of students give performances to the school. I am excited about this program as the first step to building a French School Symphony.

Please contact me with any suggestions or ideas, offers to help, etc... as we build a strong academic foundation and support it with enriching opportunities for our children.

I am very much looking forward to building on these and other successes next year.

Have a great summer!

Conrad

SUMMER TO DO LIST

- Do not let one day slip by, READ with your child EVERY DAY!
- Limit "SCREEN" time (t.v., computer, video games etc...) to less than 2 hours each day.
- Get outside and play.
- Have family dinners whenever possible.
- Help you children participate in family life by giving them daily CHORES to do.
- Exercise Daily.
- Visit the Library and join the reading club.
- Have FUN!!