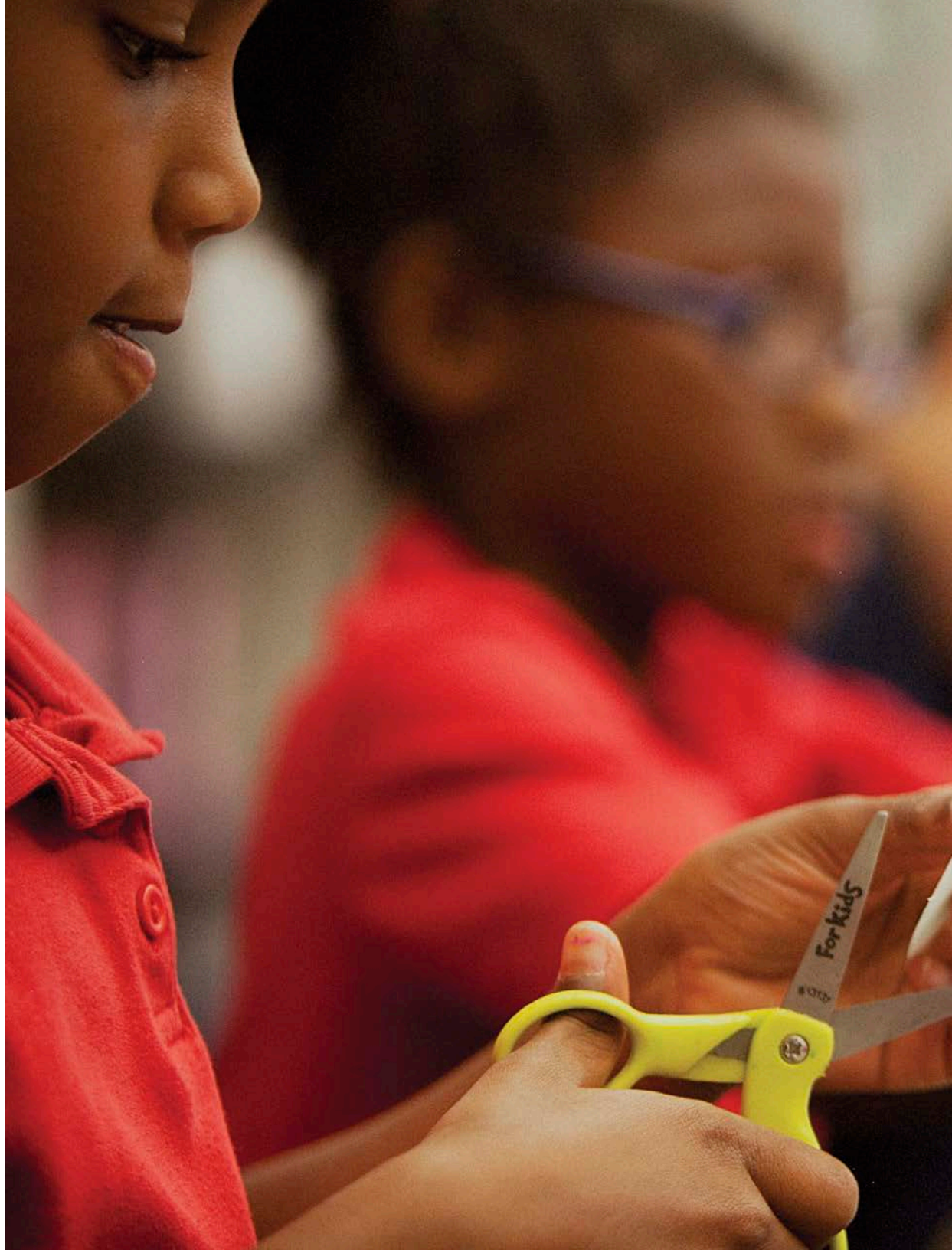




Critical thinkers. Engaged learners. Global citizens.



It's 9:00 a.m. and the halls of Académie Lafayette are alive with learning. Teachers engage eager minds with challenging lesson plans. Language immersion is expanding the students' educational and social horizons, while enriching the life experiences that lie ahead. Académie Lafayette students are working hard, becoming critical thinkers and global citizens in a unique environment unlike any other in the city. All this, and it's not even lunchtime.



Bienvenue Welcome

Académie Lafayette's Beginnings

Académie Lafayette is a charter public school and a leader in French immersion curriculum. Founded in 1999, as Missouri's first charter, the school opened its doors to 250 students, grades K-8. Today, with more than 825 students, Académie Lafayette continues to be the leader in language immersion in the region, and remains committed to its mission and its students, families, faculty and supporters. The school's goal is to continually reach for higher standards and greater levels of achievement, putting the future success of its students at the forefront for every teacher, every day.

Mission Statement

We bring together a diverse community of students and an international teaching staff to develop critical thinkers, global citizens and engaged learners through immersion in world languages and cultures.



2.3

million students attend
6,000 public charter schools
in 40 states and the District
of Columbia.



1991

Minnesota passed the first
charter school law in the
United States. California
followed suit in 1992.



47

charter schools in
the state of Missouri



78

percent is the average
per-pupil funding charter
schools receive, relative
to district schools.



825+

students attend Académie
Lafayette. Académie Lafayette
continues to be the leader
in language immersion
in the region.



950

hours of instruction in
French per year



15:1

student-to-faculty ratio
at Académie Lafayette.



74

percent of Académie
Lafayette's home room
teachers are native
French speakers.





L'école School

1

Académie Lafayette was Missouri's first charter school.



1999

Académie Lafayette opened its doors to 250 students, grades K-8.

What is a charter school?

Charter schools are autonomous public schools which receive the same types of funding from the same sources as other public schools. However, they receive much less funding per student. Charter schools are not private schools. Charter schools do not charge tuition. Charter schools are overseen by sponsors who uphold accountability. Académie Lafayette's sponsor is the University of Central Missouri. Charter schools are non-sectarian, non-religious and do not discriminate in their admissions policies.

The teachers who make it all possible

- Students benefit from a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1. Smaller class sizes and the incorporation of French-speaking interns provide additional learning opportunities and more focused support
- 74% of Académie Lafayette's home room teachers are native French speakers, and 70% have advanced degrees
- The international teaching staff hails from Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, France, Haiti, Luxembourg, Senegal, Togo, and the US



Mon petit dictionnaire



(W W W W W)

Y Y Y Y Y

Z Z Z Z Z

Les trois langues

Three languages



Foreign language immersion

In a traditional second language program, students are taught how to speak, read and write in a non-native language. In immersion programs, like Académie Lafayette's, students are taught all their subjects IN the second language. In every class, all day, every day, students are speaking, reading, writing, conversing, and yes, eventually even thinking, in French. This authentic communication allows students to learn a second language in a similar manner to the way that they have learned their first language.

Benefits of a second language

In a world economy that is increasingly "global" in scope, the long-term benefits of speaking a second language are many. Employment opportunities increase. Students adapt an inclusive worldview and demonstrate cultural sensitivity. In addition,

bilinguals have increased mental flexibility and tend to use language more creatively. Students with two well-developed languages are more focused listeners and communicators. They are often more respectful of differences between people and their cultures*. In short, learning a second language not only helps children develop better language skills in general, it also puts them on a path toward success in numerous areas of their lives and careers.

Adding a third language

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, Académie Lafayette students in grades 4-8 will also start on a third language tract. Students will choose to add either Mandarin Chinese or Spanish to their curriculum, and will take this third language elective with the goal of being conversationally fluent by the time they graduate from 8th grade.

*Source: Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition



Les avantages Benefits



Other than learning a second language, what does a child gain from an immersion program?

- **Mental flexibility.** Students with two or more languages can focus more on meaning and pick out the most relevant points from information provided. They are better able to communicate their thoughts and express themselves and can answer open-ended questions more easily than those with only one language.
- **Life-long learning.** Learning a second language in elementary school enhances imagination and critical thinking, while improving analytic and interpretive capacities. Generally, children who speak more than one language are more flexible and open to learning.

-
- **Heightened awareness, receptivity and appreciation of language.** Acquisition of a second language makes your child more sensitive to communication and better able to understand and respond to the needs of others. Their exposure to another culture makes them respectful of differences and allows them to communicate effectively with people of diverse backgrounds.
 - **Improved cognitive abilities.** According to the Modern Language Association, children who learn a second language score significantly higher on verbal and nonverbal IQ tests. “Research has shown that math and verbal SAT scores climb higher with each additional year of foreign language study.”



On 2013 state standardized (MAP) tests, 93.4% of Académie Lafayette 8th graders scored at the Proficient or Advanced level in English. On the same tests, 86.7% of Académie Lafayette 8th graders scored at the Proficient or Advanced level in Math, and 86.6% in Science. (By comparison, the average Missouri state scores were 54.5% Proficient or Advanced in English, 41.7% in Math, and 50.8% in Science). In fact, Académie Lafayette middle school students performed in the top 2% of all 629 middle schools in Missouri on the 2012-2013 MAP test. Académie Lafayette's exceptional scores are even more impressive when one considers that these students learn the curriculum in French, but are tested in English.*

*Source: Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

“At Académie Lafayette, there is a powerful sense of community built around strong academic goals and character development that is tangible and fantastic. I love that my children are exposed daily to global diversity and embrace it. On top of it all they have life-long friends and they can speak FRENCH!”

— Molly Davies





High school on the horizon

Académie Lafayette is in the process of expanding its charter to include grades 9-12. The Académie Lafayette high school will adopt the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, which is strong in global studies, foreign languages, sciences and literature. Students will have the opportunity to select a path of study to fit their interests and desires for the future. In addition to the high school diploma they earn at graduation, they will also earn one of the following options:

- **IB Diploma** — by completing a rigorous course path in their 11th and 12th grade years.
- **IB Career Certificate** — by pursuing classes and hands-on experiences in the field of their choosing
- **IB Certificate** — by taking a selection of IB courses that fit their interests

Students will be able to earn college credit by following any of these paths. Students who pursue the IB Diploma path may even be able to enter college as sophomores.

Académie Lafayette is committed to continuing the educational journey on which we have embarked with our students in grades K-8. We look forward to offering this new and exciting opportunity to our 8th grade graduates and their families, as they continue to pursue excellence in education and success in life and career.



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Join us!

To learn more, visit us online at
www.academielifayette.org

Prospective parents, media or other community personnel, contact Académie Lafayette's Director of Communications at 816 260 8952.

For information on how you can help support Académie Lafayette's mission, contact the school's Director of Development at 816 886 8760.

Académie Lafayette does not and will not discriminate, or in any way prefer, any student over another student based on race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability, income level, proficiency in English or athletic ability.

Merci beaucoup!

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