

THE
**FRENCH
AMERICAN**
opening minds **SCHOOL**
AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PARENT GUIDE 2017-18



Welcome to the 2017-18 school year at FASRI!



Enrolling a child in a French school means that there will be much that is new for American parents, and FASRI is committed to building a comprehensive understanding of our way of teaching. Our students are immersed in a seamlessly bilingual school experience, French and English together.

We are pleased to offer you this Parent Guide to provide a brief overview about what to expect in our unique program. You will learn more over time by talking with teachers and staff, but don't hesitate to contact the school with questions. We acknowledge that families in our community include diverse range of caregiving roles, but we have used the term "parent" throughout this document in order to be concise.



QUICK FACTS

FOUNDED: 1994

MISSION

FASRI develops globally connected, responsible and adaptable citizens through an exceptional multi-language program that empowers students to realize their full potential.

Faculty certified by the French Ministry of National Education: 50%

Average class size: 18

Nations represented in the FASRI community: Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Cape Verde, Morocco; Armenia, Lebanon, India, Pakistan; Australia; Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, San Marino, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom; Brazil, Canada, Puerto Rico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The French American School Board of Trustees' role is to ensure the long-term future and health of the school through strategic planning, governance, and oversight. The responsibility of the day-to-day operations of the school is managed by the Head of School and the school's faculty and staff.

KEY STAFF

Christophe Bonnet

Head of School

Virginie Gherardi

Director of Extracurricular Activities

Louise Jakobson

Director of Development

Lynne Malone

Director of Finance and Administration

Raïssa Mensah

Director of Admissions

Steve Murphy

Academic Director

TRUSTEES 2016-17

Jennifer Tomasik, Chair

Vice President and Principal, CFAR, Inc

Celine Leger-Wesson, Vice Chair

Independent Accountant

Michael Ferri, Treasurer

CPA, Blum Shapiro, LLP

Patrica M. Lawlor, PhD, Secretary

Professor of French, Department of Foreign Language Studies, Providence College

Sara Enright

Vice President of Student Affairs/Chief Outcomes Officer, Community College of Rhode Island

Doug Gray

Co-Chair of Corporate Counseling and Business Transaction Group. Locke Lord

Valerie McCain

National Sales Manager, Providence-New Bedford, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

Louise Olson

Senior Major Gifts Officer, Johnson & Wales University | Co-Owner, Olson & Parent Funeral Home

Alex Pérez-Tenessa

Vice President of Beauty & Personal Care
CVS Health

Andrew Robarts

Assistant Professor, RISD

Ethan Sluter

Portfolio Manager, Bourne Avenue
Capital Partners

Racheal Adriko Spillberg

Lower School Principal, Milton Academy

2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note all dates are subject to change. Check our online calendar on fasri.org and the weekly news for the latest updates, new events and cancellations.



august september	15	Online summer forms due
	1	Maternelle orientation
	5	First day of school
	6	La Garderie begins
	10	Family Picnic, Colt State Park
	19	Back to School Night
october	4	Picture day Head of School Installation
	6	Faculty day, no school
	9-13	October break, no school
	16-18	Open classroom, Moyenne Section through Grade 8
	16-20	Giving Week
	november	2-4
4		Open House
13-14		Open classroom, Petite Section
21		First trimester ends
22-24		Thanksgiving break, no school
december		3
	12/23 - 1/7	Holiday break
	january	1
15		Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school
TBD		Faculty Day, no school
february	15	Fête des Arts
	16	Financial aid application deadline
	19-23	February break
	28	Re-enrollment contracts due
	march	5
30		Faculty day, no school
april		TBD
	13	Grandparents and Special Friends Day
	16-20	Spring break
	may june	TBD
12		Last day of school

COMMUNICATION AT FASRI

Parents need to be kept well-informed about both the progress of their children and the events at school. Here are some of the ways you can stay connected:

The Weekly News is sent out every Wednesday and contains information for the coming week, including important updates, deadlines and announcements. The weekly news our main channel of regular, school-wide communication so we strongly encourage parents to read this resource regularly.

FASRI.org is designed to serve as a convenient resource for our families. Visit our password protected families area for news stories, pictures from school events, a school directory, forms, lunch menus and links. New families receive their login credentials before the start of the school year.

The Cahier de Liaison is a folder sent home in the elementary grades to communicate student progress and facilitate regular communication between parents and teachers.

Back To School Night and Curriculum Nights: Back to School Night takes place in September and it serves to introduce the school and faculty to FASRI families. Classroom teachers offer presentations on their plans for the year. Curriculum nights will provide parents with an in-depth understanding of our dual-language program.

The FASRI Newsletter, sent to parents, grandparents, alumni, trustees, volunteers, donors and friends offers an in-depth glimpse into programs, special events and other aspects of interest to school life.

Parent teacher conferences, occurring twice yearly, provide the perfect opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher. Watch for sign-ups in the weekly news.



Snow cancellations are communicated to parents by voicemail, text and email. We also notify the local news media, and post details on the website and social media channels.

SOCIAL LIFE

Get the latest on school life, class trips and news flashes.



www.facebook.com/French-American-School-of-Rhode-Island



Follow us on Twitter: @theFASRI mind



Follow us on Instagram: www.instagram.com/theFASRI mind/

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Residents of the following school districts may be eligible for school bus services through the Rhode Island Department of Education statewide student transportation system:

Barrington	East Providence	Pawtucket
Bristol	Johnston	Smithfield
Central Falls	Lincoln	Warren
Cranston	North Providence	

Parents may request transportation on the RIDE website:

<http://ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/AdditionalResources/StudentTransportation.aspx>

The deadline to make your request is July 31, 2017.

Providence residents may receive bus transportation through the Providence Public School Department. To register, parents may fax, email or mail a completed form to Ligia.Pineda@ppsd.org. FASRI distributes forms through the weekly news and on the website and the deadline to submit a request is June 9, 2017.

MORNING DROP-OFF AND AFTERNOON PICK-UP

There is no parking allowed on the school side of John Street between 8:00am and 4:00pm, and traffic laws are strictly enforced. Drivers should not exit the car. If your child needs assistance, you may find parking on Hope street or on nearby side streets. Please communicate your dismissal plans to the office and your child's teacher. In the event of any change, please provide as much advanced notice to the main office and the teacher as possible to allow our staff to manage a smooth and safe dismissal process.

LUNCH

Students may bring lunch from home or enroll in our school lunch service provided by Cafe de Vie. Registration is for the full year. Monthly menus appear on the FASRI website and the weekly news. Families who do not wish to register for lunch every day may sign up for **Pizza Fridays**, or purchase a ticket in the main office. For registration details please contact the office by phone or email us at admin@fasri.org.

FOOD ALLERGIES

The possibility of severe allergic reactions to peanuts, tree nuts and their derivatives is now a well-documented fact. Exposure can be life-threatening, FASRI maintains a strict no nuts policy.

We ask that all parents cooperate in helping us provide a safe and healthy environment for every child in school. This means that individual snacks, group snacks, baked goods for Café Day, class party treats or any food items eaten on school grounds should contain no nuts or nut oils.

MATERNELLE PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

MATERNELLE HOURS:

8:40am - 2:45pm (doors open at 8:15)

Early Drop-off: 7:30 - 8:15am

Steve Murphy, Academic Director
SMurphy@fasri.org

Instruction begins at 8:40 am. Petite and moyenne section students should be accompanied into the classroom by a parent or guardian allowing plenty of time to transition smoothly into the school day.

The pick-up time for our half-day program (PS) is at 11:30am. Regular maternelle student dismissal is at 2:50 pm.

John Street is one-way toward Hope Street between the times of 2:45 and 3:15. Dismissal schedules should be shared with classroom teacher and the main office.

Our curriculum is structured around the learning cycles of the French education system.



SNACK

Families in the Maternelle take turns providing healthy morning snacks for the class for the week in the fall and the spring. Each teacher displays a list showing the snack schedule. Snack guidelines are included in the summer mailing.

MATERNELLE

	French	US equivalent	Overview
CYCLE 1	Petite Section (3 y.o.)	Preschool	The French Maternelle provides the bilingual foundation for all future learning. French immersion with an introduction to English literacy.
	Moyenne Section (age 4)	Prekindergarten	
	Grande Section (age 5)	Kindergarten	

ELEMENTARY GRADES ONE TO FIVE

ELEMENTARY HOURS:

8:30am - 3:00pm (doors open at 8:15)

Early Drop-off: 7:30 - 8:15am

Steve Murphy, Academic Director
SMurphy@fasri.org

Instruction begins at 8:30 am. We recommend that you allow plenty of time so that students can transition to the school day. When dropping students off at the main entrance please do not exit your vehicle. Students may enter the school between 8:15 and 8:30 and proceed promptly to their classroom alone.

John Street is one-way toward Hope Street between the times of 2:45 and 3:15. Dismissal schedules should be shared with classroom teacher and the front office.



Don't understand your child's homework in French? You are not alone. Teachers help students develop autonomy and confidence during the elementary years, so that they can gain confidence and build a strong academic foundation for Middle School.

ELEMENTAIRE

CYCLE 2	Cours Préparatoire (CP) (age 6)	First grade	Acquisition of reading, writing, concepts of numbers, introduction to concepts of time, space, matter and life.
	Cours Élémentaire 1 (CE1) (age 7)	Second grade	
	Cours Élémentaire 2 (CE2) (age 8)	Third grade	
CYCLE 3	Cours Moyen 1 (CM1) (age 9)	Fourth grade	Mastering, consolidating and supplementing the skills introduced in Cycle 2. Developing the ability to research, think abstractly and work independently with methodical and rigorous study habits.
	Cours Moyen 2 (CM2) (age 10)	Fifth grade	

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES SIX TO EIGHT

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOURS:

8:15am - 3:00pm (doors open at 8:15)

Early Drop-off: 7:30 - 8:15am

Steve Murphy, Academic Director
SMurphy@fasri.org

Instruction begins at 8:15 am. Middle School students must enter the school promptly by 8:15.

Middle School is the time that students begin to reap the intellectual rewards from the foundation they have built during the maternelle and elementary years. Highlights of the FASRI Middle School experience include Spanish language, overnight trips, study abroad opportunities, and a highly individualized program designed to meet each student's interests and needs.



Studies have shown that bilingual students learn a third, or even a fourth language more easily and rapidly than their monolingual counterparts.

COLLEGE

French	US equivalent	General Curriculum
6ème (6e) (age 11)	Sixth grade	Middle School: centers on the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical developmental needs of young adolescents, fully preparing them for a smooth transition into high school. Our curriculum provides appropriate programs, policies, and practices that foster the academic and social development in positive ways. Components include: interdisciplinary teaming, advisory programs, varied instruction, elective programs, and transition programs.
5ème (5e) (age 12)	Seventh grade	
4ème (4e) (age 13)	Eighth grade	

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Extracurricular programs at FASRI provide a safe, enriching, and positive experience that carry the school's core values and curriculum into the extended day:

- La Garderie, our afterschool care program
- Clubs, our specialized enrichment activities
- Camps, during October and summer breaks

La Garderie

Offered daily, 3:15 - 5:30pm

Session 1: 3:00 - 4:15pm

Session 2: 4:15 - 5:30pm

Virginie Gherardi

Director of Extracurricular Activities

VGherardi@fasri.org

La Garderie offers a wide variety of activities and crafts, and our elementary and middle-school students get a jumpstart on their homework. Our maternelle students participate in enriching activities to build their skills in French. In order to ensure proper staff-to-child ratios in after-school care, parents must pre-register their children.



From fencing to theatre, clubs at FASRI offer a variety of structured, specialized activities for children of all ages. The clubs brochure posted on fasri.org/afterschool provides a list of our most recent offerings.

CAMP

October Camp: October 10-13, 2017

Summer Camp: June 19 - July 14 2017 | June 18 - July 13, 2018

FASRI Camps take place during October and summer vacations and offer the students the chance to continue playing and learning in French when school is not in session. Campers are divided into age-appropriate groups and participate in a variety of activities in French, which may include outings and field trips.

Register for a camp

Parents receive information and registration forms for camps at least two months before the start dates. In order to register, parents must submit forms and a check for fees to the Director of Extracurricular Programs. For details and camp brochures visit: fasri.org/programs/camps

THE FASRI PARENT ASSOCIATION

THE PA MISSION

All parents at the French American School are members of the Parent Association. Its goals are to:

- Enrich the quality of each student's experience by encouraging the involvement of parents in the School's programs and activities
- Support the French American School in its educational, social and nurturing roles
- Support effective communication among the school community, its administration, its faculty, its alumnae, and its parent body
- Build the family community and to reach out to the wider community in Providence and beyond

The PA has an Executive Committee and class representatives, class parents, who provide direct support for each class and its teachers. Bi-monthly meetings are held at the school and all parents are welcome to attend.

WHAT WE DO

Among the activities supported by the PA are the annual family picnic in the fall; park cleanups in both the fall and spring; the end of year faculty appreciation luncheon; family fun events; community events such as food and coat drives and the Admissions Open Houses. The PA also hosts bi-monthly Café Days, FASRI's early morning bake sales. For more information on how to become involved, please contact the PA at fasriPA@gmail.com.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Over the years, the PA has enriched the life of the school in immeasurable ways, offering time, expertise and leadership to FASRI. Some of the special events and initiatives spearheaded by the PA include movie screenings; panel discussions; installing eco-friendly, filtered water dispensers; coordinating teachers, volunteers and local experts for a schoolwide Syria awareness month; strengthening our connection to the surrounding Fox Point and College Hill neighborhoods by leading playground cleanups; and forging classroom to community connections with organizations like the Refuge Dream Center and Dorcas International Institute. Becoming involved with the PA is the best way to become more connected to the school and all FASRI parents are welcome!

CAFE DAYS

Café Day fundraisers are typically held on the first Friday of every month, starting at 7:45 in the cafeteria. Classes take turns hosting Café Day, contributing baked goods, or volunteering to staff the event.

This FASRI tradition is a great opportunity to meet other parents, enjoy coffee and a pastry with other parents and school staff. It also helps raise money for PA-led initiatives that support the school.

GIVING



What a child learns at FASRI goes way beyond language.

Imagine our young students growing into adults who can grasp issues across cultures and think critically. Becoming individuals who value what makes people different. Becoming citizens who will make their mark on the world.

Your generosity is key in this process.

Your financial support helps us with everything, beyond what tuition alone can provide: from recruitment of the best teachers in both languages-to maintaining and renewing technology tools like tablets and smartboards... to improving our old but beloved building... to building rainy day funds and cash reserves.

We hope that we will inspire you, as a member of our community to join us in accomplishing our mission. There are many ways you can help:

- Make a gift to the FASRI Fund, our annual fund
- Attend, sponsor, and donate to our annual gala fundraiser, the Rendez-vous
- Volunteer: we have many opportunities available
- Make a gift to our endowed fund to benefit future generations
- Make a gift of stock, equity, shares
- Make a bequest: leave a legacy by remembering FASRI in your will

We welcome and need your support and involvement to serve our students. To find out more about how you can help us move forward, please do not hesitate to contact ljakobson@fasri.org or at 401 274 3325.

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