WELCOME!
Middlebury College French School 2015

Dear French School Student,

It is a special privilege to welcome you to the 100th year of the Middlebury College French School. Since 1916, thousands of students, from beginners to DML candidates, have joined dedicated faculty and staff in taking the Language Pledge, attending courses and enjoying cultural events that include lectures, films, plays, sports activities, and choral and cabaret performances, all set in the Green Mountains of Vermont. If you are willing to work hard and to take advantage of an extraordinarily vibrant community of French-language learners, then you have found the right place and program, and we can guarantee you a successful learning experience.

Among these documents, you will find information that will answer most of your questions about your upcoming summer with the French School. Please read through all of these materials. If after careful research, you are unable to find the answers to your questions, please contact me at the phone number or email listed below. I'll be happy to help you.

Please take particular note of the Accepted Students website. Here you will find answers to almost all logistical questions!

What to expect when you arrive at the French School
You will no doubt, like all of your fellow students and even staff members, experience a mixture of excitement, nervousness and anticipation! You may wish to check out the Language Schools on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/middleburylanguageschools, where you will be able to make advance connections with others coming to the French School. Upon arrival, you will proceed directly to the Welcome Center at Axinn Center, where you will meet me and/or members of our summer staff. We will take your photo for our internal directory, and will provide you with even more information about your first days in the French School! At the arrival center you will meet with members of the Library and Information Services department, Public Safety, International Student Services if needed, and other campus departments. You will be given your room assignment and your student I.D card, and may then check into your dorm room.

Your first two days will be full of orientation activities including oral placement testing, course registration, “ice-breaker” activities, meetings, social gatherings, and a “Contra Danse” on Saturday evening. The book store will have open hours for you to purchase books for your classes. 7-week classes will begin on Monday, June 29 and 6-week classes begin on Thursday, July 2.

Please refer to the French School opening schedule in the pre-arrival materials for specifics about the opening week.

The French School Team
French School Director Philippe France has assembled a gifted and dedicated team of instructors and staff to support you in your learning experience this summer. With the support of Associate Director Elise Salaun, Professor France is responsible for all academic matters pertaining to all French School programs The French School Bilingual Assistants will be part of your daily lives. They will support you in your language acquisition and will ensure the daily, smooth operation of the School.
To create an encouraging and intellectually challenging immersion environment, the French School attracts world-class faculty members and guest speakers from every corner of the francophone world. Teaching excellence, commitment and constant availability to students are the norm in the daily life of our faculty.

I continue in my role as Coordinator of the French School, with primary responsibility for your student dossiers and for overall planning of the French School logistics. I maintain communication with all other Middlebury College and Language Schools departments. I look forward to meeting each of you this summer and welcome you to visit me in my office.

CV Starr Middlebury Schools in France Team
Those who will be studying this fall with the C.V. Starr-Middlebury School in France will meet with School in France Director David Paoli during his residency on campus this summer.

The French School Offices are located in Allen dormitory. The offices are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a break for lunch, from Monday through Friday. Please do not hesitate to visit the office during these times.

Residential Life
The French School will be housed in the Coffrin and Allen dorms, and all meals will be taken in Proctor Dining Hall. Please review the information under housing and campus logistics on the Accepted Students website for details.

What to bring to campus
Check out What to Bring to Middlebury to find out what is provided in your dorm room and what you need to bring.

The French School offers many cultural and social events such as themed parties and dances, game nights, theatrical productions, a student recital, a choral concert, a costume ball and a cabaret. You may want to prepare for these events by bringing musical instruments, costumes, etc. If you are interested in performing in the choir, student recital, theatrical productions or the “Cabaret” talent show, please consider bringing black pants or skirt, a white shirt and appropriate shoes. You may also want to bring sports equipment and clothing such as soccer cleats, a tennis racket, running gear, golf clubs, light hiking shoes or a bike for getting around campus.

Examples of Co-curricular Activities can be found at: http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/french/activities. (These activities are subject to change)

Your summer mailing address/email address
Upon your arrival at Middlebury, you are required to activate your Middlebury email address and you must check this address daily for important updates and communication. Middlebury email is the primary means of daily communication within the French School, and for Language Schools administration. You are responsible for ensuring that you keep abreast of these communications. You will find information about accessing your mail and email accounts on the Accepted Students website.

Accessing BannerWeb
Middlebury College uses BannerWeb, a secure program for students to view their academic records. You’ll find information about Banner Web on the Accepted Students website.
Campus Maps
You will find campus maps in a variety of formats at the following link: http://www.middlebury.edu/about/campus/campusmap

Public Safety
The Public Safety office is open 24 hours a day and can be reached at 802-443-5911. Please program this number into your cell phone and use for medical emergencies as well as lock-outs. The Public Safety office is located at 125 South Main Street (VT Route 30).

Early Arrivals
Neither the French School nor Middlebury College will be able to provide you with housing should you arrive earlier than Friday, June 26 if you are a 7-week student or earlier than Tuesday, June 30 if you are a 6-week student. If you are in Middlebury prior to your arrival date, please arrange for accommodations on your own. You will find local lodging resources in the “Local Information” section of the Accepted Students website.

Please note: 1st year graduate students whose travel distance will not allow them to arrive in time for a required 1pm meeting on June 30, may email or phone me to request permission to arrive on Monday, June 29. It is only with prior notification that a room will be available for you on Monday. No other exceptions to the arrival dates can be made.

End of the Session
7-week classes end on Thursday, August 13. 6-week graduate session classes end on Wednesday, August 12. Students may leave as soon as their classes and final exams are completed, however keep in mind that the French School Final Banquet and Dance occurs on that Thursday evening. Many students therefore will elect to leave on Friday, August 14. A student who leaves earlier than the schedule above without express permission of the director and his/her professors will receive a grade of WD/F. All dormitory rooms must be vacated no later than 10:00 on Saturday, August 15.

Language Schools Commencement will be held at Mead Chapel on Friday, August 14 at 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Information about Commencement will be sent to graduates during the summer session.

Optional weekend excursion to Montreal, July 25 and 26
Each year the French School travels to Montreal for two days of food, art, shopping and culture in this beautiful, cosmopolitan city. A coach bus will leave Middlebury the morning of July 25 and will stay overnight, returning to campus by Sunday evening, July 26.

While in Montreal, you will have the opportunity to explore the city on your own or with others from our group; no obligatory programming will be planned.
• Spaces for this excursion are limited, and are assigned on a lottery basis.
• The beginning of the sign-up period for the trip will be announced soon after your arrival on campus. More information will be available at that time.
• We have reserved overnight accommodations at one of the dorms of l'Université de Montréal, "les Studios Hôtel." All rooms are doubles.
• The anticipated cost for this excursion will be US $100 per person (subject to final cost calculations). The cost covers round-trip transportation and accommodation (but not meals).

Payment for the trip will be made on campus as part of the sign-up process. Please be prepared to pay by personal check or money order. No credit card payments can be accepted.
• All participants, including American citizens, must carry a valid passport. *You must bring your valid passport with you when you arrive on campus at the start of the summer in order to be eligible to sign up for the Montreal trip.*

• Foreign students are individually responsible for acquiring a visa for Canada if necessary; if you wish to participate in the excursion, you should verify ahead of time with a Canadian consulate whether you will need a visa and how to apply for one.

It has been a great pleasure being of assistance to you and I wish you a productive and enjoyable summer. The French School Directors, Assistants and I look forward to welcoming you to the French School soon!

Sheila

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