



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 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 just over 720 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 the French language and Francophone cultures.



1.6

million students attend
4,900 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.



62

percent of students in public
charter schools are minorities.



78

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



720+

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



70

percent of Académie
Lafayette's teachers
have advanced degrees.



16:1

student-to-faculty ratio
at Académie Lafayette.



72

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





L'école School

1

Académie Lafayette was Missouri's first charter school.



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 16:1. Smaller class sizes and the incorporation of French-speaking interns provide additional learning opportunities and more focused support
- 72% of Académie Lafayette's home room teachers are native French speakers, and 70% have advanced degrees
- The international teaching staff hails from Algeria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Senegal and the US

1999

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



Mon petit dictionnaire



W w W W
Y y Y Y
Z z Z z

Les deux langues

Two 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.



Bilingual Benefits

Already aware of the incredible advantages bilingualism can provide? Did you know there are additional benefits to children, including cognitive, academic and employment benefits? That's right! Research shows that learning a second language not only helps children develop better language skills in general, but it puts them on a path toward success in various areas of their lives and careers.

Les avantages Benefits



“AL helped me develop a strong work ethic and a desire to learn, which have had a tremendous impact on my academic life.”

— Xye Inzauro
Académie Lafayette graduate

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

- **Mental flexibility.** Students with two 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.”



Académie Lafayette students exceed all state averages on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests, despite learning the material in French and being tested in English.



“We feel so fortunate that our children attend Académie Lafayette. Not only are they learning a rigorous curriculum, but the teachers and culture of the school are also educating them to be global citizens who embrace differences.

I would pay tuition for my children to attend this school.”

—Amy Jordan Wooden





Choosing a school is one of the most important — and daunting — decisions a family must face. Sometimes it helps to hear from others who have struggled with the same decision. Parents overwhelmingly agree that Académie Lafayette has changed their children’s education, and future, in a positive way. Here are just a few of their comments.



“As a parent and an educator I am thrilled about Académie Lafayette. I can’t say enough positive things about this school. The support for children, families and staff is unprecedented in education anywhere in America today, much less a public school. The supporting arts (music, art, library, computer), frequently dropped in public schools, are equally strong. The energy and caring for each child’s holistic growth is beautiful. 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

“I’ll be honest, this was not an easy choice. We had a million questions and a million doubts. But at the end of the day, we had a million more dreams for our daughter. She’s in first grade this year and her French has astonished us. We do not speak French, but we are now compelled to learn. The staff and teachers—not to mention our first grader—have impressed us immensely. This is what a top-notch education sounds like, and we can’t wait to see where it takes her.”

— Kelly Lynch-Stange



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Join us!

To learn more, visit us online at academielafayette.org

Prospective parents, media or other community personnel,
contact Katie Hendrickson (khendrickson@academielafayette.org).

For information on how you can help support Académie Lafayette's mission,
contact Shelly Doucet (sdoucet@academielafayette.org).

Merci beaucoup!

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