

Dwell in Possibilities

Welcome from the Head of School
Ermitage International School of France
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January 7, 2010

Mr. Chris Hunter
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Dwell in Possibility

- Emily Dickinson

For a *vision* of my *future*



Put on the glasses
of *possibility*

The future? What can it look like?

- 2012? District 9? Avatar? Twitter? Facebook? iPhone? iPad?



Does anyone know what the world will look like in even 10 short years?



- And what will I need to learn? How will I learn?

Can anyone really guess how we'll be communicating and working by the time I reach university or my first job?

- Can anyone even answer these questions?



According to Dr. Mary COLEMAN,
President of the University of Michigan:

« We believe we do our best for our students when we give them the tools to be analytical, to be able to gather information and to determine the validity of that information themselves, particularly in this world where people don't filter for you anymore.

*We want to teach our students how to make an argument, how to defend an argument, to make a choice. »**

** New York Times, 2 January 2010*



The Association of American Colleges and Universities recently polled employers to learn what it was they wanted in young graduates:

- 89 % want young people who have « the ability *to effectively communicate* orally and in writing »
- 81 % want graduates who have « better *critical thinking* and *analytical skills* »
- 70 % are looking for people who have «the ability to *innovate* and to be *creative* »

What's *my world* look like?

MOUNTAINS

THE GREAT
CITY IN THE
DISTANCE

SEA

MY QUIET
VILLAGE

Or does it look more like this?



Interconnected:

A world where we are interconnected and interdependent.



The Premise

I will be acting in a

Global environment

And a Global environment will be acting on

ME

I need to...



Dwell in

possibility

and

discovery...



What are my...

- Interests?
- Capabilities?
- Capacities?
- Qualities?
- What do I like to study and to do?
- How do I like to spend my time?



Where & how will I develop my...

- Interests and activities?
- Awareness of myself and of the world?
- Knowledge?
- Sense of myself and others?
- Responsibility to myself, to others and to my world?

What do I need to put into my *personal toolbox*?

- Is it solely academics or do I need a broad range of experiences?

Exchanges

Conferences

Adventure learning

Leadership opportunities

Environmental awareness

Democratic exercise participation

Opportunity to serve others and to learn

about this very diverse world



And a broad range of learning environments and experiences?

- Traditional and non-traditional classrooms
- Lectures
- Discussions
- Forums
- Debates
- Presentations
- Research skills
- Conferences and seminars
- In different languages and with teachers from different intellectual traditions



Both Round Square...

- With its IDEALS:
 - International Awareness
 - Democracy
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Adventure learning
 - Leadership
 - Service learning

...and



...the International Baccalaureate with its *Learner Profile*

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

Provide...



Avenues of...

Discovery & Development


Of

My Possibilities

It's a big world out there!

- And there are so many questions...
- Where do I start?



- 
- Where can I imagine going to University?
 - France? Europe? North America?
 - In what language will I study?
 - French? English? Both? Another?
 - In what field will I like to study?
 - Humanities? Social sciences? Sciences? Arts? Fashion? Media and communication? Technology?
 - Do I dream already of being a...?
 - Teacher, nurse, doctor, computer hacker, architect, diplomat, lawyer, business leader, entrepreneur, rock musician, painter, writer...?



At Ermitage,
I can choose to *prepare* the:

- French Baccalaureate
- The International Option of the French Baccalaureate (OIB)
- The Diploma Program of the International Baccalaureate (IBDP)

- Each of these secondary diplomas will open doors to universities around the world!



Changing Priorities: 4ème / 8th grade

- As I progress from year to year, my priorities will change.
 - For example, in 4ème or 8th grade, I can develop my interests and different activities and develop my awareness of the world.

Changing Priorities: 3^{ème} & 2^{nde} / 9th & 10th Grade

- Focus and to prepare for the final two years of secondary school.
- In these years, I will prepare for exams such as the National Brevet or the International Brevet, the Cambridge First Certificate Exam in English, the Cambridge Diploma Program, and IGCSE.
- I can concentrate on learning my languages and on participating in ambitious Round Square activities such as:
 - Individual exchanges
 - Round Square Committee for student government
 - Conferences in Europe
 - International Service Projects
 - Model United Nations and the International Awards



These are *Key Years*

- Students Develop:
 - Language skills
 - Leadership skills
 - Social and friendship skills
 - Along with a strong academic foundation

Major Decisions: 2nde / 10th grade


- And at the end of my 2nde or 10th grade year, I will make major decisions:
 - Which diploma program suits me best?
 - What are my first answers to the questions about university study?



Major Responsibilities: 1ère & Terminale / 11th & 12th grades

- The pressure increases, my focus narrows, the rendez-vous are on a calendar:
 - Academic obligations and exams
 - University applications and visits
 - Summer programs that can help my cause
- But it's exciting and I can still participate in many great activities:
 - MUN
 - Round Square
 - Round Square Annual Conference
 - International awards and much more... !

DEADLINES! ANSWERS! DECISIONS! PRESSURE!

- 
- I **build** my foundations over time.
 - I **know** there will be exciting opportunities.
 - I can **reach** out and grab them.
 - I will face **challenges** and even difficulties.
 - I will **grow** and can **adapt**.
 - I will **wonder** if I am making the right choices.

 - But no matter what...

Yes, I can

*Dwell in
Thank You!
Possibilities!*

