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Introduction

COLLÈGE LA DÉCOUVERTE

Collège La Découverte is a family run bilingual school in Grand Saconnex which provides secondary education following on from two Primary campuses, one in Sécheron and another in Mies.

La Découverte school has existed for 30 years and offers families a close community, excellence in bilingualism and innovative, active teaching and learning methods.

Collège La Découverte delivers the Swiss Romand program of study, while actively developing and evaluating critical and creative thinking skills alongside traditional subject knowledge. We provide opportunities for students to work individually and collaboratively on projects, applying their new knowledge and skills to make connections and take the learning to a deeper level. The children learn equally in French and English, enabling them to become bilingual.

The students at Collège La Découverte pass the Swiss cantonal exams in 11th grade which lead to the IB diploma or the Maturité Suisse in the final year of the Collège.







The cycle





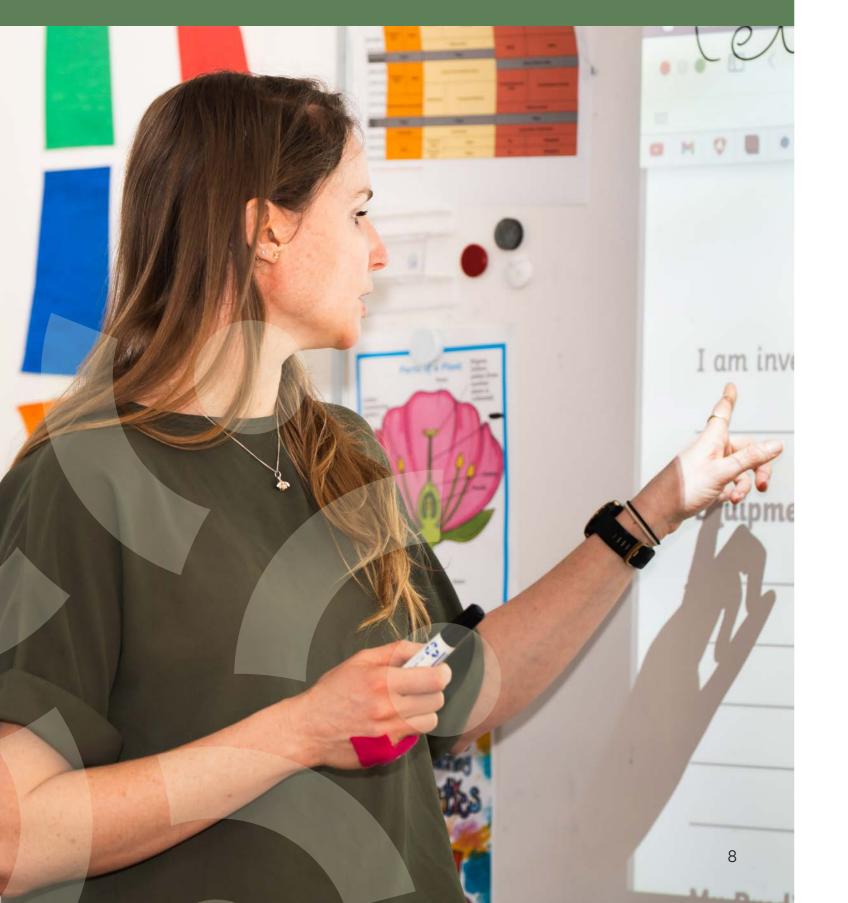
Collège La Découverte is a Swiss School and offers the Swiss Romand program using active teaching and learning methods. It is progressive and prioritises pedagogical innovation. We enable our students to excel in all areas of the Swiss curriculum and ultimately succeed in cantonal and federal evaluations.

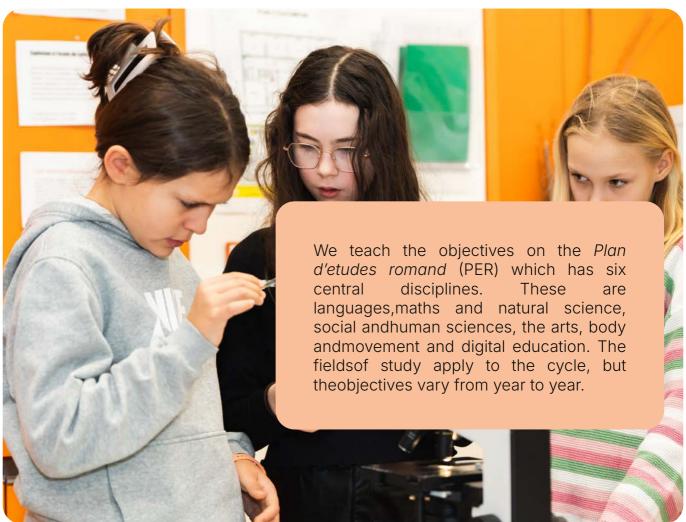
Our Swiss curriculum in an active learning model

- empowers learners with the mindsets and skills to own their learning and improve their performance,
- employs personalised learning strategies that help each student reach and master learning targets,
- enables each student to contribute to a dynamic and varied curriculum,
- engages and motivates students through projects, interests, and making connections to the real world.

LA DÉCOUVERT COLLÈC

Program of study





French
English
German
Mathematics and sciences
Social sciences and humanities
Body and movement

Art and design

Technology and digital education

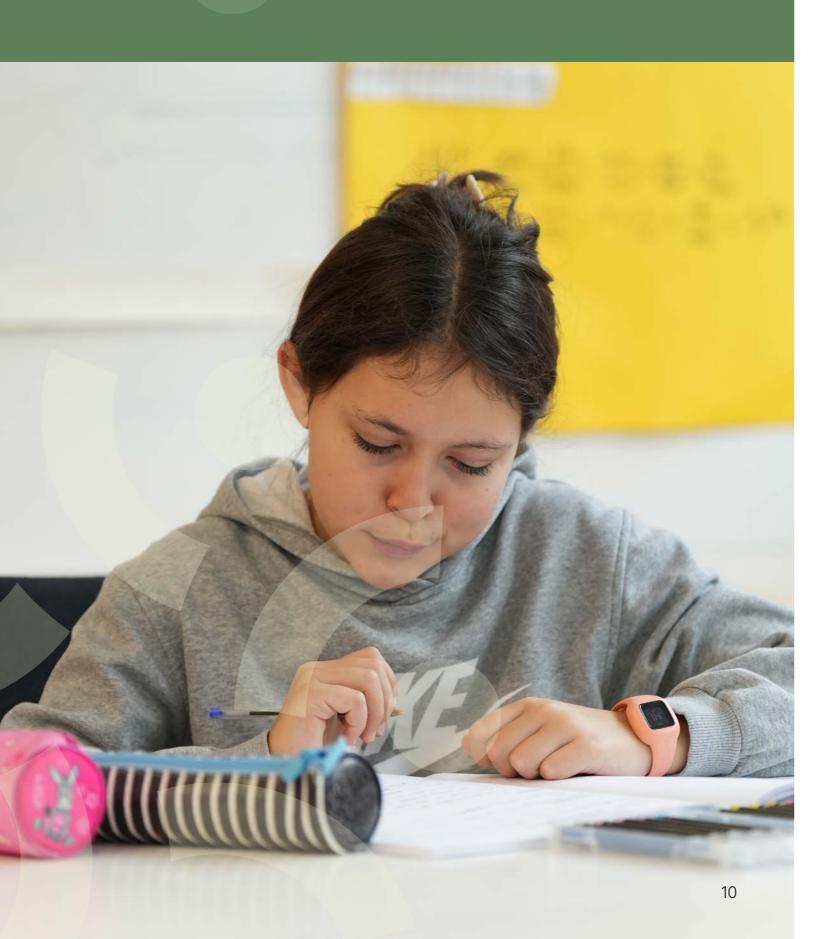
DISCIPLINE

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TAUGHT PERIODS IN



Fields of study



MATHS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

N

NUMBER

OPERATIONS

MEASURE

Pose and solve problems to model the plane and space.

SPACE

Pose and solve problems to construct and structure representations of real numbers.

Solve numerical and algebraic problems.

Use measurement to compare quantities.

MODELLING

NATURAL AND TECHNICAL PHENOMENA

THE HUMAN BODY

DIVERSITY OF LIFE

Modelling natural, technical or social phenomena or mathematical situations. Analyse natural phenomena and technologies using approaches characteristic of the experimental sciences.

Analyse the mechanisms of the human body's functions and draw conclusions for their health.

Analyse the organisation of living organisms and draw conclusions about the sustainability of life.

AN EXAMPLE OF SCIENCE FIELDS IN GREATER DETAIL...

ANALYSE NATURAL PHENOMENA...

- The dimensions of the universe
- Molecular models
- Characteristics of substances
- Chemical and Physical reactions
- Colour
- Forces and Movement
- Energy
- Electrical circuits

ANALYSE THE MECHANISMS OF THE HUMAN BODY...

- From the organism to the cell
- Overview of systems
- Cardiovascular system
- Digestive system
- Respiratory system
- Micro-organisms
- Nervous system (+ Neurosciences and psychology)*
- Locomotive system
- Reproductive system
- Analysis of different systems

*La Découverte only

LANGUAGE -NATIVE LEVEL

READING COMPREHENSION

Read and analyse

texts from different

genres and identify

their meaning.

ION WRITTEN PRODUCTION

te texts in and

LISTENING ORAL PR

ORAL PRODUCTION

Write texts in different genres adapted to the situations in which they are expressed.

Understand and analyse oral texts of different genres and draw conclusions from them the many meanings.

Produce different types of spoken text adapted to different situations.

ACCESS TO LITERATURE HOW THE LANGUAGE

CROSS6LINGUISTIC APPROACHES

WRITING AND

Appreciate and analyse a variety of literary works.

Analyse how language works and develop criteria for understanding it and produces texts.

Enrich your understanding and use of languages by establishing links with different languages.

Use writing and communication tools to collect, exchange and produce documents.

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

READING COMPREHENSION

ORAL PRODUCTION

WRITTEN PRODUCTION

Understand a variety of spoken texts in everyday situations.

Read written texts independently in everyday language.

Produce a variety of spoken texts suitable for everyday situations. Write a variety of texts on subjects that are familiar or of personal interest.

HOW THE LANGUAGE WORKS

CROSS-LINGUISTIC APPROACHES

WRITING AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Observe how language works and acquire the basic tools for understanding and producing texts.

Enrich your understanding and use of languages by establishing links with different languages. Use writing and communication tools to collect, exchange and produce documents.

HUMANITIES

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE

Analyse
geographical
areas and the
relationships
established
between people
and societies within
them.

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO TIME AND HISTORY

Analyse the collective organisation of human societies in the past and elsewhere through time.

RESEARCH TOOLS AND METHODS

Adopt research tools and appropriate practices to the problems of the humanities and social sciences in a practical and social context.

OUR RELATIONSHIP

Understand the main features of a democratic system*.

*At La Découverte it is Citizenship and Philosophy

ART AND DESIGN

EXPRESSION AND

Represent and express an idea, an imagination, an emotion, a perception in different artistic languages.

PERCEPTION

Analyse your sensory perceptions.

ACQUISITION OF TECHNIQUES

Practice a range of plastic, craft and musical techniques.

CULTURE

Compare and analyse different works of art.

FITNESS AND HEALTH

FITNESS AND HEALTH

Recognise the sports that help you improve your physical condition and health.

Strengthen your coordination skills and use your body as a means of expression and communications.

MOTOR AND/OR EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM GAMES

SENSES AND
PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS

A BALANCED DIET

Train techniques and develop motor skills.

Adapting your behaviour and role and developing specific skills in different forms of play.

Distinguish the characteristics of nutrients and study their role in the diet.

Learn culinary skills and balance your diet.

Bilingualism



Education at **Collège La Découverte** is underpinned by a **strong bilingual French-English program**, preparing our students to excel in an international context.

Being truly **bilingual** has many cognitive advantages including **better concentration** and **task-switching capacities**.



Teaching time:

French: 50%English: 40%German: 10%

The core curriculum is taught in French, with the exception of English language and literature, and the foundation curriculum is taught in English.

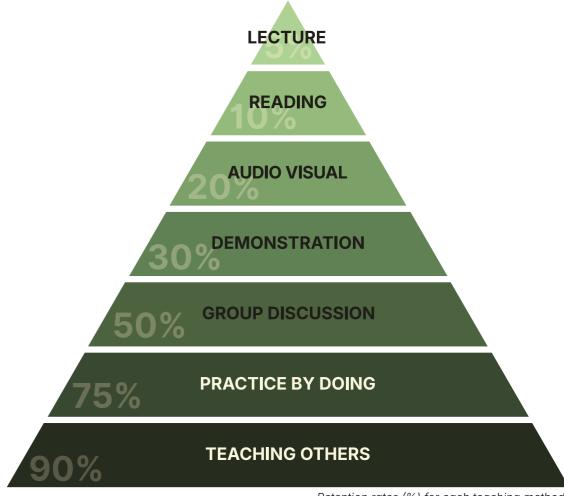
The English and French level at La Découverte is native. In order to accept students coming from outside La Découverte, for 9th & 10th grade there is an intensive catch-up program for non-native speakers following an evaluation.

The cantonal common evaluations are taken in French in 11S and IGCSEs are taken in English in 11S. The cycle is followed by college, which culminates in the bilingual IB and Maturité Suisse (fédérale) examinations in French.

Active teaching methods



Our active teaching and learning methods focus on the application of knowledge to engage our students in their learning, enabling them to integrate concepts profoundly. We emphasise the development of metacognitive and interpersonal skills as a complement to knowledge acquisition.



Retention rates (%) for each teaching method. (National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine)

Our teachers are trained in participatory teaching methods. These include: Demonstrations, hands-on experimentation, problem solving and mini projects applied to real-world concepts.

The team collaborate in transdisciplinary projects combining two complementary subject areas each trimester.

Our **« no walls »** project is rooted in community connections, as our young people carry out projects with organisations around the city of Geneva. Our program is designed to give young people the opportunity to exchange knowledge, skills, cultures and be changemakers in their community.

LA DÉCOUVERTI COLLÈG

Thinking skills





Projects are an excellent vehicle for developing metacognitive **skills**. Most projects at La Découverte are teacher led and help the students to better understand academic objectives. The « no walls » project, however, is student led. We have added time to the curriculum (we have longer days) in order to go further in exploration and discovery without the constraints of fixed objectives. The 'no walls' projects take place outside of La Découverte, working with theatre organisations, such as **Amstramgram**, or **maker** spaces, such as Fablab. These community based projects enable the young people to truly bring about change in their city.



OBJECTIVES- CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING 9TH & 10TH GRADE

CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyse situations and stimuli to define a problem or multiple problems
- Gather relevant information and resources
- Analyse the context of the problem
- Create a list of possible solutions
- Propose actions with many options
- Weigh up the possible positives and negatives impact of each action
- Weigh up the feasibility of ideas and risk-assess (budget, time, safety, location etc)
- Make a decision based on evaluations taking into account the views of the team
- Organise a plan of action
- Complete the tasks according to the schedule
- Adapt the schedule according to need while keeping to the timeframe
- Evaluate the results and the process



OBJECTIVES- CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING 9TH & 10TH GRADE

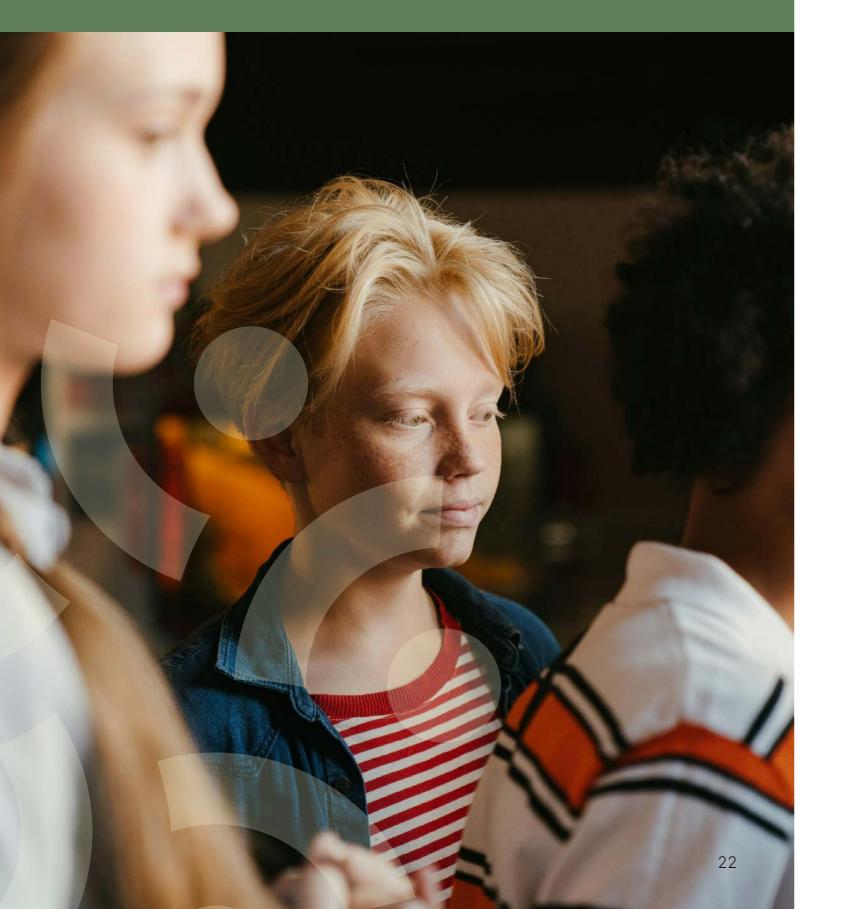
CREATIVE THINKING

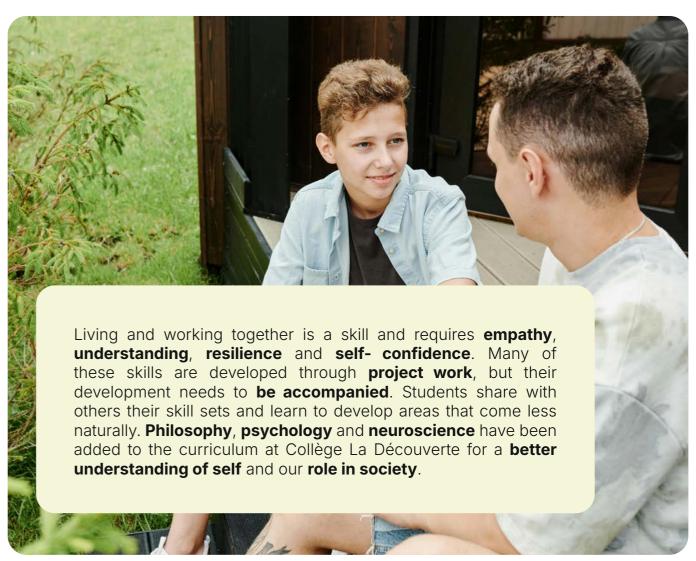
- Empathise and imagine how people may be affected
- Reframe the problem or issue in different lights to gain deeper insight
- Overcome cognitive fixedness to design innovative solutions or pathways ('blue sky thinking')
- Find ways of combining ideas to create encompassing solutions and propositions
- Consider both beauty and usefulness when building prototypes
- Design a pathway which inspires and motivates
- Enrich the process with actions which continue to feed interest and passion
- Consider the presentation of the eventual solution to inspire/be meaningful to others
- Be detailed and demanding about the quality of presentation
- Consider aesthetics, emotions, intellectual content and innovative content



LA DÉCOUVERT COLLÈG

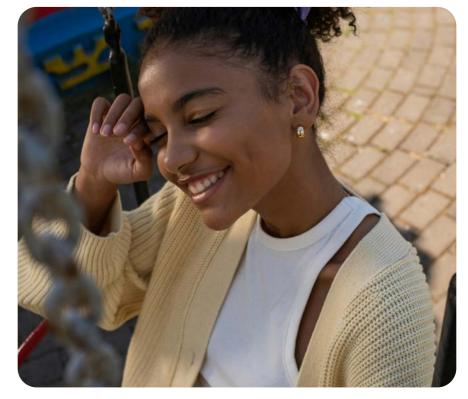
Social and emotional





At Collège La Découverte the students are allocated a **coach**. This is a point of reference for the student and for the family. The students will be part of a small coaching group, **between 6-8 students**, which meets **twice weekly**.

The coach will also meet with each student for an individual session once a month. The purpose of this session is to **accompany** the student in their personal development and help them keep track of their academic progress in curriculum subjects and **critical** and **creative thinking**.





Evaluation



It is **rigorous evaluation** and **targeted remediation** which allows all students to excel. All disciplines are evaluated through **formative classroom observation** and **summative testing**. It is important that the children can know where they are and be informed of their **next necessary steps**, retaining control over their learning and how to improve.



For the disciplines of the plan d'etudes, the core subjects are evaluated through **testing every two weeks**. Foundation subjects are evaluated at the end of the unit, usually **every half trimester**.

Critical and **creative thinking** are evaluated in all sessions through **teacher observation** and **set coursework**.

Social and **personal development** is discussed and reflected on in individual and group coaching sessions.

Students and parents have access to the evaluation outcomes on the learning platform.





Sport is an important discipline and provides excellent educational opportunities. Learning how to handle oneself and work as a team sailing on the lake or rafting down a river teaches control of emotions in difficult situations.

In team sports, we learn to **enjoy our victories**, but also learn from our losses, picking ourselves up and **improving our personal best**.

At La Découverte we want all our students to find their sporting activity which drives them to learn resilience, determination and team work. Good health and fitness in teenage years is crucial.





We work with the local sailing school students to obtain their Swiss certificate in 11th **grade**. La Découverte students study judo from 3P to 11th grade. We also continue to develop the students skills on the ice and in the snow. We give all our students the opportunities to take part in regional sports which make up part of being Swiss.



The arts





We connect **spoken** and **written language**, **science** and **mathematics** to **art**, connecting different parts of the brain.

At Collège La Découverte, highlevel written texts continue to be illustrated in class and geometry and shapes have their place in the **arts studio**. Shakespeare plays are performed as intended and theatre sets are **designed** and **created**.





Extracurricular



La Découverte offers a wide range of **extracurricular activities**, allowing the young people to explore their passions and discover new interests. At La Découverte we have four main 'extra' groups: **Languages**, **arts**, **sports** and **intellectual pursuits** (for example coding and chess). The 'extra' activities take place **after school** and on a **Wednesday afternoon**.





Practical information



Class times:

Monday - Tuesday - Thursday - Friday: from 8:30am to 4:30pm

Wednesday: from 8:30am to 12:15pm

Meals

The school offers meals each day. Students have the option of not registering for meals twice a week, and of leaving the school grounds with parental permission

Transport

Supervised train ride from Mies to Sécheron



Admission

The level required for a student to be admitted to our school is the **equivalent of R3 according to the Plan d'Etudes Romand**. Learning in three languages with a focus on **projects** is **cognitively** demanding.

The student's level of English will also have to be assessed beforehand by the team, but please feel free to send documents supporting your application. In any case, each enrolment request must be validated by the leadership team after studying the student's file and following a meeting with the family.

Let's keep in touch

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