

**PEDAGOGY AND
PROGRAM OF STUDY
9TH, 10TH & 11TH GRADE**

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Introduction

COLLÈGE LA DÉCOUVERTE

Collège La Découverte is a family run bilingual school in Geneva 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 in the final year of the Collège.



The future school building in Grand-Saconnex



La Découverte primary school was founded in the early 90's, as the **brainchild of visionary parents and educators**.

La Découverte has been recognized for over **30 years** for its **innovative pedagogical approach** and commitment to quality education.

Faced with **growing demand from satisfied parents** eager to continue this unique educational experience, we are opening the **Collège La Découverte** at the **start of the 2025 school year**.

1 The cycle



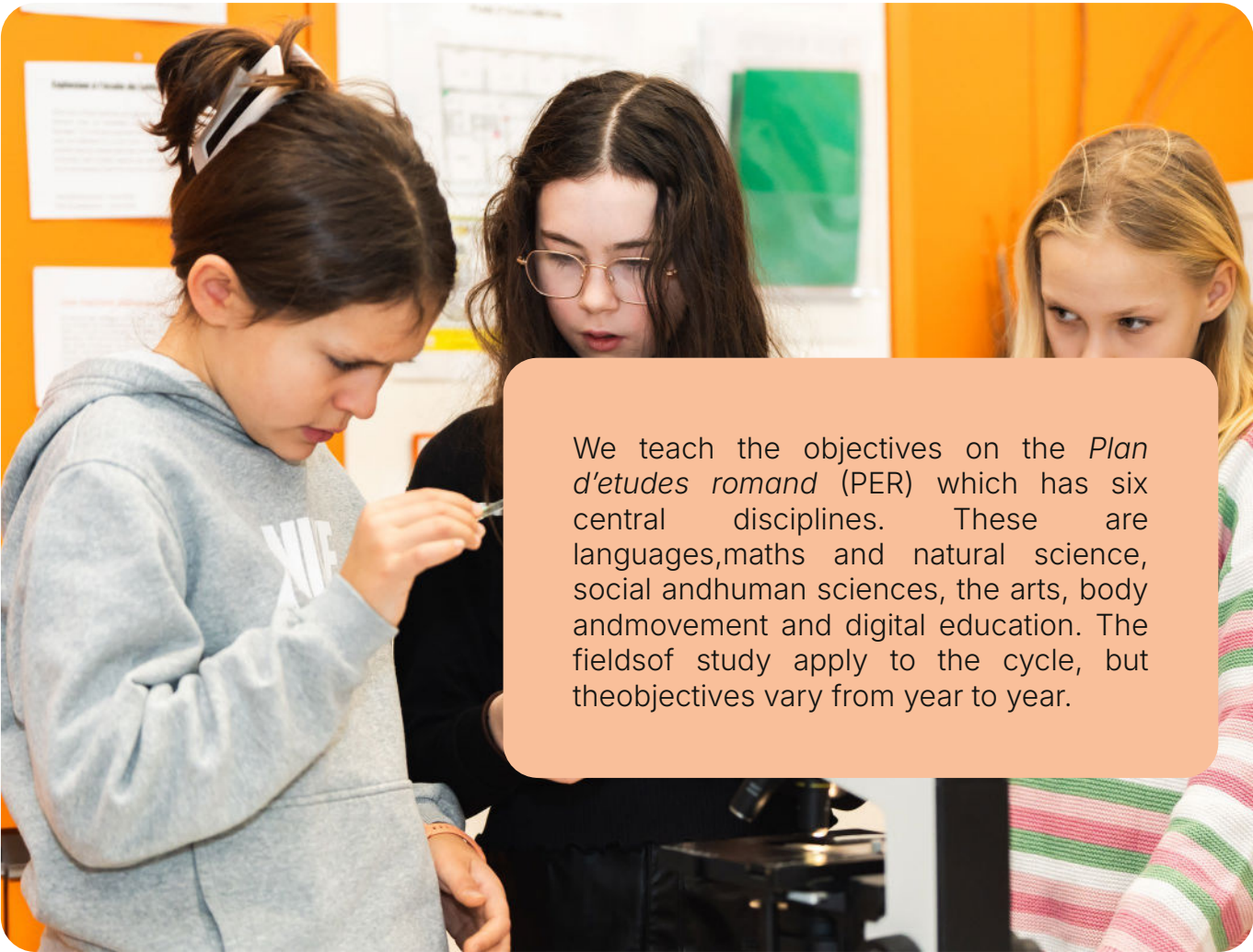
Collège La Découverte is a Swiss School and offers the **Swiss Romand program** using **active teaching** and **learning methods**. It is **progressive** and prioritises **pedagogical innovation**. We enable our students to excel **in all areas of the Swiss curriculum** and ultimately succeed in cantonal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

2

Program of study



We teach the objectives on the *Plan d'études romand* (PER) which has six central disciplines. These are languages, maths and natural science, social and human sciences, the arts, body and movement and digital education. The fields of study apply to the cycle, but the objectives vary from year to year.

DISCIPLINE	TAUGHT PERIODS IN 9TH & 10TH GRADE
French	5
English	4
German	4
Mathematics and sciences	7
Social sciences and humanities	4
Body and movement	3
Art and design	2
Technology and digital education	1

3 Fields of study



MATHS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

SPACE	NUMBER	OPERATIONS	MEASURE
Pose and solve problems to model the plane and 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...	ANALYSE THE MECHANISMS OF THE HUMAN BODY...
• The dimensions of the universe • Molecular models • Characteristics of substances • Chemical and Physical reactions • Colour • Forces and Movement • Energy • Electrical circuits	• 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	WRITTEN PRODUCTION	LISTENING COMPREHENSION	ORAL PRODUCTION
Read and analyse texts from different genres and identify their meaning.	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 WORKS	CROSS6LINGUISTIC APPROACHES	WRITING AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS
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	OUR RELATIONSHIP TO TIME AND HISTORY	RESEARCH TOOLS AND METHODS	OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIETY
Analyse geographical areas and the relationships established between people and societies within them.	Analyse the collective organisation of human societies in the past and elsewhere through time.	Adopt research tools and appropriate practices to the problems of the humanities and social sciences in a practical and social context.	Understand the main features of a democratic system*.
*At La Découverte it is Citizenship and Philosophy			

ART AND DESIGN

EXPRESSION AND REPRESENTATION	PERCEPTION	ACQUISITION OF TECHNIQUES	CULTURE
Represent and express an idea, an imagination, an emotion, a perception in different artistic languages.	Analyse your sensory perceptions.	Practice a range of plastic, craft and musical techniques.	Compare and analyse different works of art.

FITNESS AND HEALTH

FITNESS AND HEALTH		MOTOR AND/OR EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES	
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.	
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.

4 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.

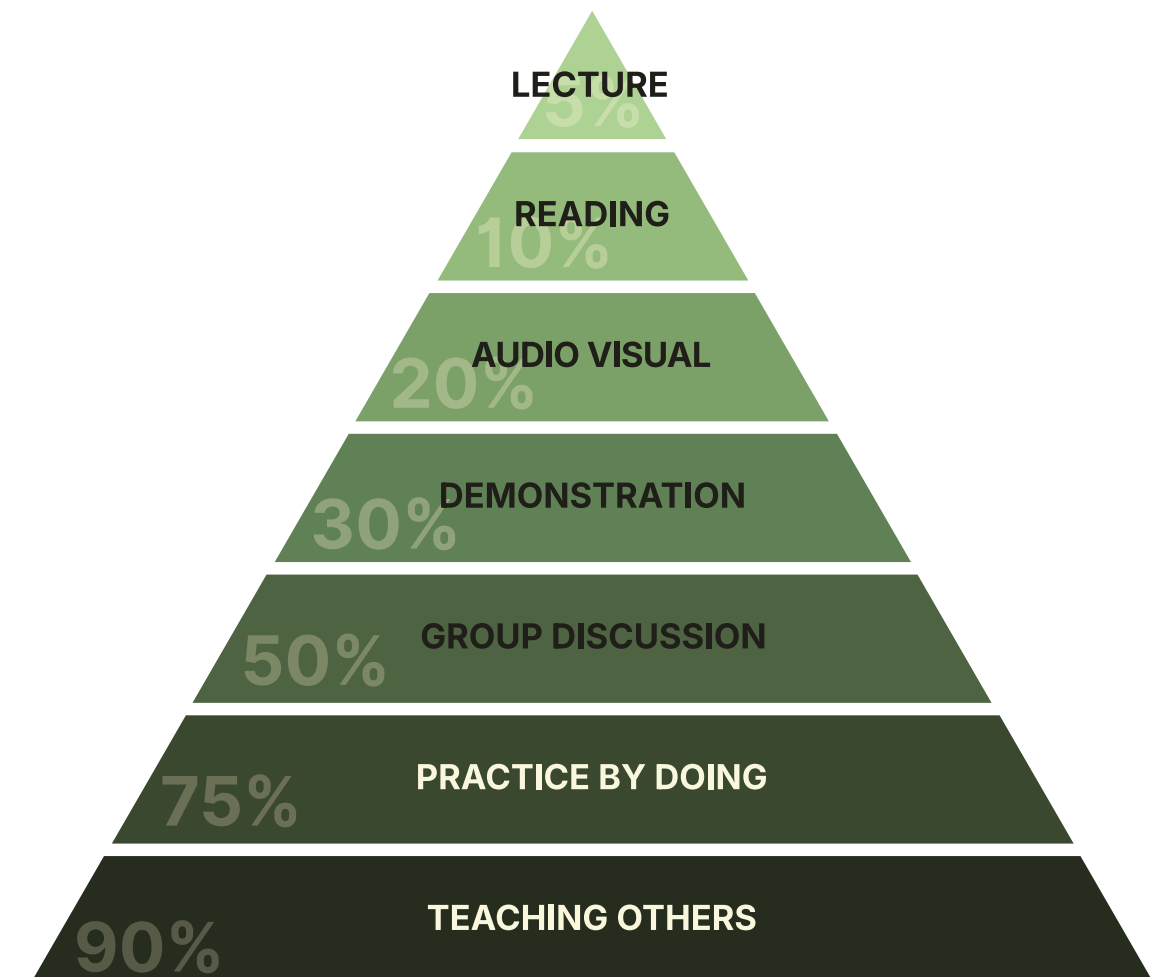
The English and French level at La Découverte is native. In order to accept students coming from outside La Découverte, for 9th & 10th grade there is an intensive catch-up program for non-native speakers following an evaluation.

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.

5 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.



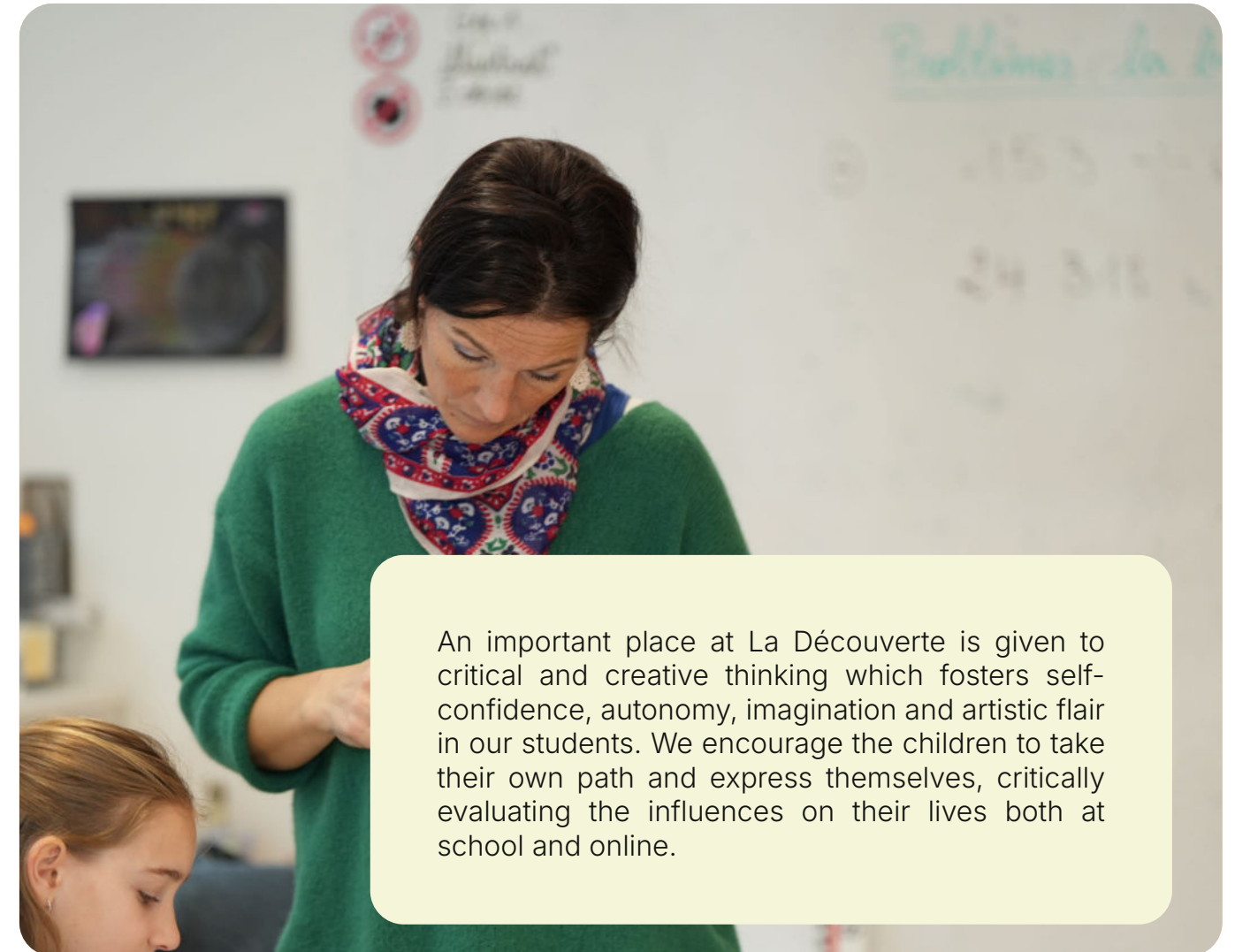
*Retention rates (%) for each teaching method.
(National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine)*

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.

Thinking skills



An important place at La Découverte is given to critical and creative thinking which fosters self-confidence, autonomy, imagination and artistic flair in our students. We encourage the children to take their own path and express themselves, critically evaluating the influences on their lives both at school and online.

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

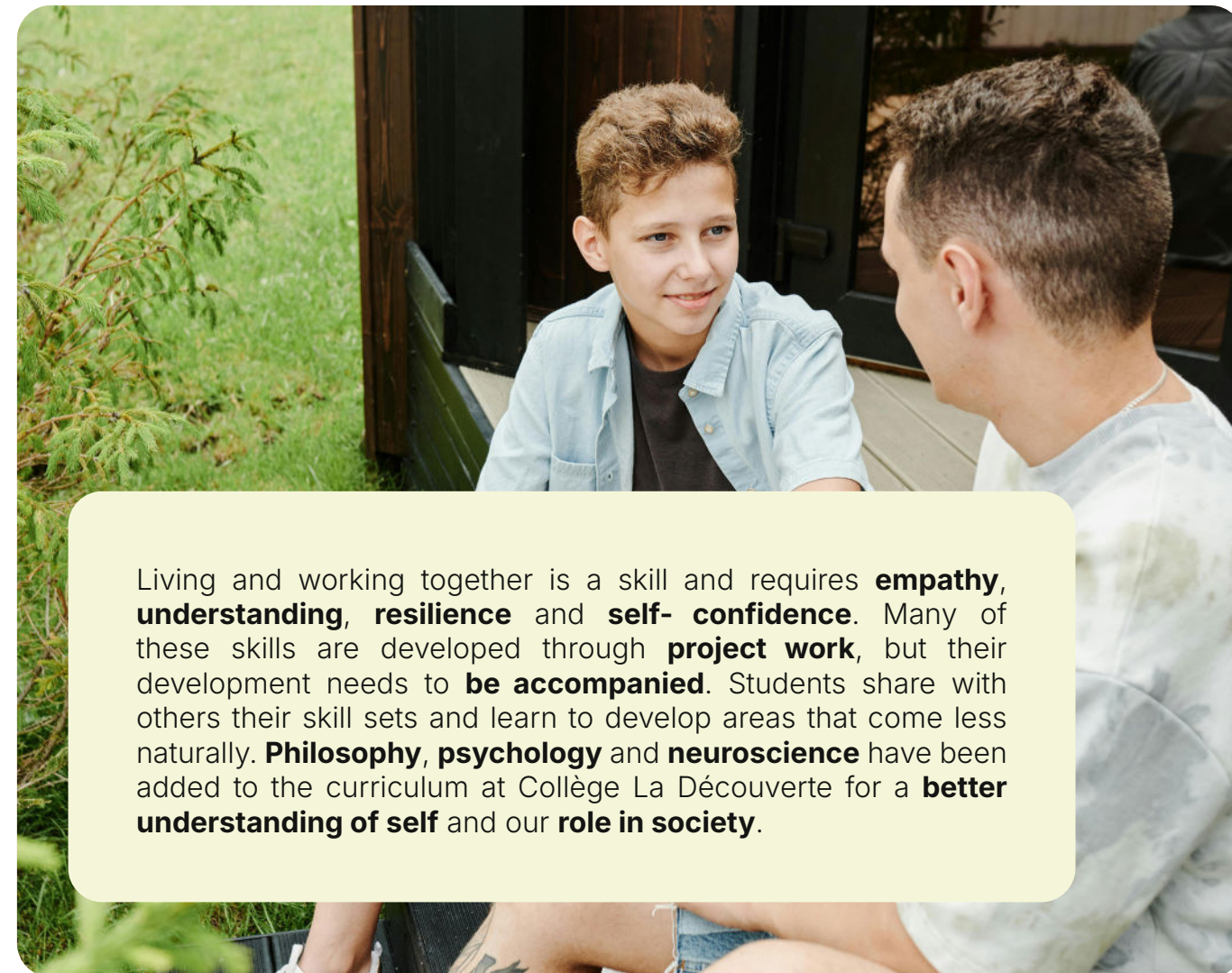
OBJECTIVES- CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING 9TH & 10TH GRADE

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



7 Social and emotional



Living and working together is a skill and requires **empathy, understanding, resilience** and **self- confidence**. Many of these skills are developed through **project work**, but their development needs to **be accompanied**. Students share with others their skill sets and learn to develop areas that come less naturally. **Philosophy, psychology** and **neuroscience** have been added to the curriculum at Collège La Découverte for a **better understanding of self** and our **role in society**.

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**.



8 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'études, 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



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 for 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.

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The arts



From the earliest age, at La Découverte, we refer to art as **one of the languages of the children**. In order to continue expressing our **thoughts feelings** and **experiences** in a variety of media, we allow access to the arts studio and theatre outside of class time, for students to **explore** and **develop their passions**.

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

At Collège La Découverte, high-level 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**.



11 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**.



The extra activities are taught by **experts** and are overseen by the **pedagogical team**. Not only do the young people take great pleasure in these activities, but the school ensures **consistent** and **monitored progression** in each activity.

On a Wednesday afternoon we offer a homework club which allows students to **carry out their homework at school**.

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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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