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Proposal for the
French Exchange Program between
Hanover High School and Le Lycée Saint-
François d'Assise in La Roche-sur-Yon,
France

Destinations: Paris and La Roche-sur-Yon, France

Dates: April, 10th-April 22nd 2024 (Host French students in HHS from October 13th to October 27th 2023)

Anticipated number of students: 23 American/23 French

Anticipated number of chaperones (school staff): 2 or 3

Cost to the student: about \$3,800 (to include both sides of the Exchange (full 4 weeks) as well as chaperones expenses)

Agenda

I- Benefits of an exchange program

***II- Who is Le Lycée Saint-François d'Assise in
La Roche-sur-Yon, France?***

III- Organization of the exchange

***IV- Academic and security requirements for
the students***

V- Cost breakdown of the exchange

VI- Documents to review

I- Benefits of an exchange program

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. NASSP BULLETIN, by Terehoff, Irina

"At their heart, foreign exchange programs are about opening minds, seeing things in a new way, and looking at old problems in a fresh light. They are about realizing that our way is neither necessarily the best nor the only way to handle a certain situation. They allow students to learn from their peers, not just from across town, but from across the planet, across cultures, and across history."

There are many benefits of participating in an exchange program. These benefits are:

a. Educational

- After traveling in another country, students have a **better understanding of different cultural and community perspectives**, and they develop more interest in global issues.
- Language acquisition happens through **practical immersion**.

b. Personal

- **Self-confidence and self-esteem** are enhanced by the necessity to confront challenges outside a familiar support network and comfort zone.
- Students develop **life-long friendships**.
- Students become **more independent** because they need to face several challenges, they need to adapt to a new environment.

c. Historical and political traditions

- Our two countries are united by a friendship that goes back more than 200 years, which makes France the oldest ally of the United States.

Participating in this exchange program is a way of renewing/continuing **the French American Alliance!** Not just for the participants though, but also for their families and our two communities. This type of experience brings people, families and communities closer together!

d. Practical

Not only will students make new friends, improve their French, have fun, but they will also **enhance their college application!**

So, here are the educational objectives of this program for our students:

Students will...

1. Investigate similarities and differences between French and American Culture.
2. Bridge the gap between American and French cultures by recognizing that our way is not the only way of thinking and by developing an appreciation for new perspectives.
3. Deepen the friendship that exists between France and America since the 18th Century.
4. Develop critical, creative thinking, and problem solving skills which will help students prepare for college entry in fields such as American Foreign Service, International Relations, the Travel Industry, the Arts, Humanities, Business Administration, Interpretation, Translation, Transportation Technologies, Law, Medicine, Sports, Aviation, and International Diplomacy.
5. Enhance their French skills through interpersonal/intrapersonal interactions in an authentic setting.
6. Identify Parisian monuments, navigate the Paris metro system, and appreciate different time periods in France by tracing French History from prehistoric times to the present.
7. Develop lifelong Friendships.
8. Connect this learning experience with many facets of life.

II- Le Lycée Saint-François d'Assise (LSFA)

The Saint-François d'Assise High school in France is a private catholic high school located in the downtown of La Roche-sur-Yon, in the west part of France, close to the Atlantic Ocean.

LSFA has been organizing a successful exchange program with Triton Regional High School every other year since 2008. The number of their students interested in that exchange pushed LSFA to look for another American High School interested in a similar exchange. Mr. Matthew Paquette who participated in an exchange with them in 2009 put me in contact with the coordinator of the program: Ghislain Fauchard. Under his guidance and experience, I decided to launch this adventure for our students. Our French exchange programs have always been very successful. 20 of our students did host the 20 French students, but their visit did impact many more students than those 20. Emily-Rose Manser expressed it in the following words: "It was as if France did visit our school."

III- **Organization of the exchange**

How does this exchange program work?

1. From March through June 2023: Students will fill a **student interest exchange application form** (see [Document D](#)) out. After sending their first payment to Forum by Prometour and a check to Hanover High School, they will fill a **host application form** (see [Document E](#)) so that we can match them with a participant from France. They will then start communicating.

2. October 13-27, 2024: French students will be visiting us!

About 23 French exchange students will visit us during the last two weeks of October in 2023. Students will welcome their French exchange students who will stay with them at home. During their stay, they will join them at school in their different classes. On some afternoons, activities will be organized at school or around Hanover. On specific days, field trips will be organized just for the French exchange students, some others for both the American and the French students (Freedom trail in Boston, JFK Museum, Plimoth Plantation as examples). During the weekend, host families will organize activities. (See [Document C](#))

3. April 10-22, 2024: American students will travel to France!

It will be our turn to visit our French exchange students. 23 American students and their chaperones will leave on Saturday night a week before April vacation. They will stay the first three days in Paris. (See the Prometour itinerary, [Document A](#)). Then, they will go to La Roche-sur-Yon. The students will follow their exchange students in their classes. Great activities will be organized by LSFA (biking on the Yeu island, visiting Nantes, going to the Puy du Fou interactive museum, etc.). During the weekend, they will stay with their student host family. (See [Document B](#)). Then, on Monday, they will return to Boston.

IV- Costs of the exchange program

It will cost about **\$3,400** for the trip to France, depending upon the number of participants, nights in Paris and travel airfares.

I will have to ask for **\$400** for all the field trips and activities we will organize around Boston while the French students stay with us.

Note: Some of these costs should be reduced through different **fundraising events** we will organize with the participating American students.

See [Document F](#) and [Document G](#) regarding the insurance policy of Forum Prometour and [Document H](#) for their liability information.

V- Academic and security requirements

American students will be studying French Language and Culture, International Relations, Monuments of Paris and the Vendée of today and yesterday with a special focus on the American and French Revolutions and their respective influences on one and another.

To be able to participate:

- Students will have to maintain a behavioral record free from suspensions, academic dishonesty, and/or a pattern of inappropriate behavior
- They will attend and participate in several orientation meetings in May, September, November, January, and March.
- They will communicate through pen pal emails in French before the arrival of our guests in October, 2023
- Students will be given a journal where to record their observations in France.
- A vocabulary notebook should serve to enter any new vocabulary they learn while visiting France.
- They will have to write a short reflection essay about their whole experience.

To be allowed to participate in the French Exchange, participating students and parents need to agree and follow the behavioral guidelines of our school. Thus, a French exchange [behavioral contract](#) stating the rules to follow while hosting French students and while in France will have to be signed by the students and their parents.

VI- Documents to review

See the attached documents

- a. The itinerary of the trip in Paris from Forum Prometour with cost ([Document A](#))
- b. The schedule of activities in France (Programme des visites) ([Document B](#))
- c. The schedule of activities in US (Fields trips and activities in US) ([Document C](#))
- d. The student interest application form ([Document D](#))
- e. The host application form ([Document E](#))
- f. The permit, insurance and liability information from Prometour ([Document F and G](#))
- g. The travel insurance quick chart for the trip from Prometour ([Document H](#))

Let's embark on this adventure! Let's make it happen!

Heureux qui, comme Ulysse, a fait un beau voyage,
Ou comme cestuy-là qui conquiert la toison,
Et puis est retourné, plein d'usage et raison,
Vivre entre ses parents le reste de son âge ! [...]

*Happy, the man who finds sweet journey's end,
Like Ulysses, or he of the Golden Fleece,
Returning home, well-travelled, wise, to Greece:
To live life out, among his own again! [...]*

Rien ne développe l'intelligence comme les voyages. (Emile Zola)
Nothing develops intelligence such as travel.