A.1 Educational Philosophy
The French American Academy of Arizona

Non Scholae Sed Vitae Discimus, We Learn Not for School, but for Life. This is the motto of The French American Academy of Arizona, a French-English, dual-language immersion Elementary school. This motto represents our educational philosophy: Learning for Life. Students at The French American Academy of Arizona ("FrenchAm Academy" or "FrenchAm") learn not only logical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, they also develop character, respect, and appreciation for learning through a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum designed around universal themes to engage and inspire the whole child. Instructional strategies include direct, teacher-led instruction, specifically the teacher model/inquiry method, project-based learning for reinforcement of the lesson, and multisensory instruction designed to support individual learners in the classroom. Graduates of FrenchAm are proficient in two languages at or above grade level and are prepared to enter academically challenging intermediate schools based on the foundations they build in our dual-language immersion elementary school.

FrenchAm provides a tuition-free educational option for families of students seeking a traditional learning environment where students are taught and learn in French and English. Students at FrenchAm Academy receive instruction in one language per day, alternating by day[1]. Methods of instruction are centered on direct, teacher-led instruction, specifically the teacher model/inquiry method, with the student and teacher sharing ideas and project-based learning for reinforcement of the lesson with students working independently or in small groups. The teacher's role in learning is to provide direct, whole group instruction, incorporate multisensory instruction (auditory, visual, tactile, and/or kinesthetic) and provide formative assessments. Following instruction, the teacher's role is to regularly assess student performance and offer remediation as necessary on an ongoing basis.

Students learn by continuous student-teacher interaction and occasional project-based learning across core academic areas, centered on the universal theme chosen that year or that month. Examples of universal themes include environmental awareness, world cultures, helping professions, etc. Students have the chance to show respect for others by actively listening, cooperating, sharing with one another, and sharing in turn. This helps engender character, respect, and appreciation for learning. The teacher's role in facilitating student learning ensures learning not for school, but for life.

FrenchAm offers an environment that is academically challenging in its curriculum, pace, and scope, because students are progressing simultaneously in French and English. This rigorous dual language program is based on the proven methods and program in place for the past seven years at our existing private school, The French American School of Arizona. Students in this school's Kindergarten and Elementary programs regularly outscore their peers in both American and

[1] Elementary grades 1 through 5 receive 50% French and 50% English instruction. Kindergarten students receive instruction solely in French, with the exception of two hours per day in English to build English language reading skills. This results in 66% French and 33% English instruction per day.

French schools, as shown in the chart below. These high scores are achieved despite the students receiving approximately half the hours of instruction in the language of the test as compared to their peers in France or locally in Arizona. At FrenchAm Academy, instructors will continue this program, not "teach to the test". Students will instead be taught to develop their own critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills to promote real learning. Building these skills in elementary school creates a solid foundation for continued academic success and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances throughout life.

Percentage of Students Receiving *Above* Average or *High Above* Average Scores 2016[2]

	French Language	French Math	English Language	English Math
Kindergarten	100%	78%	n/a	n/a
1st Grade	67%	100%	100%	100%
2nd/3rd Grade	100%	100%	100%	100%
4th Grade	100%	100%	100%	100%
5th Grade	n/a	n/a	100%	50%

Percentage of Students Receiving Average or Above Average Scores on National Standardized Testing (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) 2016

	Score	English	Math
3rd Grade	Above Average	100%	100%
	Average	-	-
4th Grade	Above Average	25%	75%
	Average	75%	25%
5th Grade	Above Average	-	50%
	Average	100%	50%

FrenchAm offers small class sizes, the expectation being an average of between 16 and 24 students per class with a single teacher. This low student-teacher ratio enables our instructors to tailor instruction on a scale that is not possible when the class size is larger. This small class size is key to enabling our students to master both languages while obtaining a high level of achievement in all core academic areas. Because of the small size, teachers are able to continually assess student performance and quickly respond to student learning needs with remediation when necessary. Through our curriculum delivered with these low ratios, students are capable of expressing their ideas and knowledge in both French and English.

[2] Qualitative assessments were performed for Kindergarten students in English. All students demonstrated satisfactory proficiency with materials necessary to promote to the next class. Evaluations were performed for fifth grade French curriculum, but failed to record due to a data processing error. The second and third grade classes were combined for this year.

FrenchAm offers an environment that is multi-cultural, giving students the opportunity to develop an appreciation and understanding of cultural differences from an early age. Many FrenchAm students have come from outside the United States, or are the first-generation of natural-born citizen children of parents who emigrated to the United States. The majority of existing FrenchAm students, 65%, come from homes in which at least one language other than English is commonly spoken by one or more parents. Languages our instructors speak in addition to French and English include Spanish, German, Arabic, and Kabyle, a Berber language native to North Africa.

FrenchAm offers an environment which allows the development of character, respect, and appreciation of the community, country, and our world. Our monthly school-wide learning themes allow exploration of the external world with topics such as the Earth, the Oceans, Animals, Helping Professions, and How Food Gets to our Tables, at levels and intensities appropriate for each grade level. Students participate in the care of their personal workspace, classrooms, and our "cantine" or lunchroom by assisting in tidying and cleaning up after activities.

The French American Academy of Arizona provides a new opportunity for school choice and improved pupil achievement for our target population through our unique, proven successful, dual language immersion program.

Mission

The French American Academy of Arizona offers a challenging academic environment of language immersion designed for elementary students to progress in scholastic achievement concurrently in the languages of French and English. The Academy's educational philosophy of "Learning for Life" means an emphasis not only superior academic achievement but also the development of character, respect for oneself and the value of others, and the appreciation of learning.

Vision

- Students at FrenchAm will progress through challenging curriculum in French and English language immersion concurrently, in a traditional, teacher-led learning environment
- Enrichment activities including project work will enhance the student's learning and provide an opportunity for collaborative work and hands-on experience
- Students will learn critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem solving skills
- Students will not be educated as training to take standardized tests and their results on standardized tests will reflect actual knowledge transfer
- During and outside of coursework, students will be expected to practice respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers, and their school to build understanding of how their actions affect those outside themselves
- Students will learn about their community, their country, other countries, and our world through a multi-cultural environment of students from different heritages
- Students who graduate FrenchAm will be able to express themselves confidently verbally and in writing in French and English at or above grade level