



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

General Presentation

This last school year will certainly be marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and Lycée Claudel's successful implementation of a new distance learning system over a very short period of time. Our entire school community deserves recognition for rising to this challenge with so much enthusiasm. Our rapid transition to a distance learning model this spring has allowed our students to remain committed to their educational progress and score excellent results on their final exams.

The 2019-2020 school year will also be marked by the diversity and value of special projects we have undertaken (outings, trips, meetings, exchanges, etc.) and by the transformative processes we have set in motion to diversify our students' education, improve the quality of communication within our school community, streamline the organization of our services, and better adapt to the ways our educational system is continuously evolving. We have:

- Launched a [new website](#)
- Upgrading of high school class furniture
- New arrangement of the high school students' lounge and lobby
- Renewed our schools' accreditation for a period of five years
- Reinvented our [linguistic policy](#) and added a new International American Section
- Begun implementing the [reform of the French Baccalaureate](#)
- Established the School-to-College Council, which aims to enrich important discussions on major educational issues (development of writing skills, skill-based instruction, etc.) for cycles 1 to 4
- Promoted the new Baccalaureate program to North American universities
- Established the Junior and High School Life Council to expand and prolong the citizenship education our students begin receiving in primary school

As you can see, we have taken many initiatives that involve every facet of our school's operations. This document will serve to outline our priorities for the coming academic year and provide the clearest instructions possible regarding the practical details of how we have organized this year's back-to-school period.



Student numbers and structure

We expect to welcome a total of 920 students during the 2020-2021 back-to-school period. To retain the positive atmosphere our school community had until classes were suspended on March 13, 2020.

As of July 8, the following are the actual number:

Niveau	Effectif total	Nb de classes	Effectif moyen	Niveau	Effectif total	Nb de classes	Effectif moyen
PS	16	1	16,0	6ème	79	4	19,8
MS	43	2	21,5	5ème	79	3	26,3
GS	45	2	22,5	4ème	74	3	24,7
CP	56	3	18,7	3ème	83	4	20,8
CE1	51	2	25,5	Seconde	60	3	20,0
CE2	65	3	21,7	Première	69	3	23,0
CM1	61	3	20,3	Terminale	72	3	24,0
CM2	64	3	21,3	Total secondaire	516	23	22,4
Total primaire	401	19	21,1	Total lycée	917	42	21,8

This restructuring will allow us to:

- Plan for an increase in enrolment between now and the start of the back-to-school period, and over the course of the school year
- Establish teams to help our students readjust to school life
- Complete the necessary educational catch-up work with students who have missed three months of in-person instruction, particularly in lower grades (cycles 1 and 2)
- Maintain a sustainable budget while accounting for the voluntary moderate increase of our tuition fees

Educational tools

Maternelle

Our priorities for the maternelle level are:

- Rearranging classrooms and updating furniture to facilitate group discussions on educational practices
- Implementing our new linguistic policy to improve cohesion and flow between French and English instruction
- Reinforcing connections and increasing interactions between maternelle and CP students.

Elementary

The key change at the elementary level will be the introduction of an **American International Section** at all levels from CP to CM2. This change will allow for:

- Coherent organization of the EMILE teaching format (3 hours of English-language instruction and one hour of co-teaching) across all primary grade levels



- Development of well-structured complementary programs for French and English instruction
- Elimination of leveled groups in CE2, CM1, and CM2 with simultaneous maintenance of a transitional group for students who need it

We also need to finalize the process of rearranging our classrooms and updating our furniture to facilitate important group discussions on educational practices.

Finally, special attention will be given to CP and CE1. At these levels, we will be providing additional support resources to help develop students' reading and writing skills, as they will have missed 3 months of in-person teaching.

Junior high (*collège*)

Our new [linguistic policy](#) will introduce several changes from 6th through 8th. Students may choose one of two different tracks:

- The **Adapted and Expanded Foreign Language Track (*Parcours adapté et renforcé en langues étrangères; PARLE*)** adds one hour of English-language instruction per week:
 - Grade 6th: mathematics
 - Grade 5th: history/geography (replacing physics/chemistry for this year only)
 - Grade 4th: history/geography
- The **International Section Track (*Parcours en section internationale; SI*)** provides additional instruction on North American literature (3.5 hours per week), and half of the history/geography curriculum is taught in English.
- **Expanding of Spanish Language (*LVB*)** (2 hours per week) primes 6th grade students to begin studying a second non-European language of their choice at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Furthermore, as part of our efforts to develop skill-based instruction techniques in cycle 3 (middle school), **all grade 6 classes will become ungraded classes**. This will allow students to revisit and confirm what they are learning themselves using the same teaching and evaluation methods.

Finally, at the beginning of April, a series of practical interdisciplinary instruction sessions will be scheduled over a one-week period (instead of the usual two weeks).

High school (*lycée*)

The implementation of [our new language policy](#) at the high school level will follow the same guidelines as middle school. Students who select the **Adapted and Expanded Foreign Language Track (*PARLE*)** will be given one extra hour of English-language Earth and Life Sciences instruction per week.



The second important change at the high school level is the **reform of the French Baccalaureate**, which affects Terminale students. The third major change is the introduction of new specialized education courses offering eleven distinct educational tracks to choose from.

For Baccalaureate exams, we will emphasize preparation for the final oral exam (*Épreuve du Grand Ora*) and organizing mock evaluations along the following guidelines:

- A first series of tests at the end of November, focused on the student's two specializations and philosophy
- A second series of tests before the February break
- A mock oral exam in April

Special projects and plans

Aside from the numerous projects that contribute to Lycée Claudel's educational richness, a few special projects and methodologies affecting all grade levels will be introduced next year.

Launch of an online radio station

Our online radio station project incorporates media studies, citizenship education, and the development of good oral communication skills.

For the first year, this project will be open to junior and high school students (cycles 3 and 4) only.

Designation of Lycée Claudel as an **Establishment for Sustainable Development Approaches** (*Établissement en démarche de développement durable; E3D*)

This project aims to foster a shared culture around approaches to sustainable development and their respective challenges by participating in a holistic process that encompasses teaching, school life, school operations, parents, and developing external partnerships.

All levels, from maternelle to Terminale will be involved in this project.

The project's three main priorities are:

- Improving our approach to providing care for students with special educational needs
- Formalizing a scientific curriculum that spans all grade levels from maternelle through high school
- Expanding the role of the digital commission as part of our goal to fulfill tenet no. 3 of our mission statement: [developing innovative practices to rise to the challenges of tomorrow](#)

Human resources

This coming fall, we will have the pleasure of welcoming several new staff members to our educational teams and Student Life (*PVE*) program:

- Life and Earth Sciences: Ms. Fanny UNTERSINGER
- History and Geography: Ms. Laurence ARNAUD, Mr. Vincent AZZOPARDI, and Mr. Peter Harris (for the new International Section)



Recruitment processes for the following roles are now in their final stages:

- English teacher
- Life and Earth Sciences assistant
- Early childhood educator
- Receptionist

I would like to take this opportunity to once again extend my sincere gratitude to the staff members who will be leaving our institution at the end of this academic year, and wish them great success in their future professional and personal endeavours.

Construction and development projects

The overhaul of the secondary-level classrooms will be finalized over the summer of 2020.

Our team-based discussions regarding **the class furniture update** will resume during the back-to-school period. Our goal is to begin implementing this project at maternelle and elementary grade levels over the summer of 2021.

Other development projects that normally would have been completed during this year's summer vacation period have been rescheduled to summer 2021 for the moment.

Another particularly important project will begin with the back-to-school period: the **redevelopment of outdoor spaces** (e.g. school playgrounds, parking lots, traffic circulation plans, etc.) project. In accordance with decisions made by our administrative council, the first part of this project has already been scheduled for the summer of 2021.

September reopening plan

We plan to reopen our school campus this September. This decision was made based on [documentation provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education](#), which tasks institutional operators with the responsibility of devising their own reopening plans.

As an unsubsidized private school, Lycée Claudel falls beyond the jurisdiction of the school board of Ontario. We have developed our reopening plan in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Education's best practice guidelines covering three possible COVID-19 scenarios.

- **Scenario 1:** return to school without changing school habits but with improved public health protocols in place.
- **Scenario 2:** return to school with modification of school habits based on groups limited to 15 students. This model requires the adoption of a daily or weekly rotating schedule for each group of students.
- **Scenario 3:** Learning at home in the event that school closures are extended.

Our plan was also partially based on the "Recommendations for the Reopening of Schools" recently published by [Sick Kids](#) and appearing on fact sheets written by the AEFE's educational services team for French schools abroad.



The health and safety of our students and staff members is our number one priority. Our administration will strictly adhere to any decisions made by [Ontario public health](#) authorities and will adjust this reopening plan as necessary.

Considering the current recommendations from public health authorities and the educational issues our students are facing, we favour an organizational model that allows for:

- In-person classroom instruction, which facilitates the student-teacher interactions necessary to the successful implementation of our educational programs
- Strengthening of our health and hygiene protocols relative to the flow of people on our school campus, childhood education practices, additional training for staff members, effective communication of information to students' families, and regular cleaning of classrooms and equipment

These two additional documents explore our organization model for the coming back-to-school period in more detail:

- The first document outlines how the first few days of classes will be organized and provides dates and timetables for all back-to-school meetings. To limit the number of people circulating inside the school, we have chosen to host our back-to-school meetings over video conference.

Document: [Back-to-school organization 2020/2021](#)

- The second concerns the reopening plan and details the two options selected at this stage corresponding to the Ontario Ministry of Education's scenarios 1 and 3:
 - Completely reopening the school
 - Quickly transitioning to a distance learning model if schools are required to close

Document: [School reopening plan](#)

While looking forward to meeting our students again in September, I wish you a very nice summer and, for those of you who do, an excellent holiday.

Yours sincerely

Philippe COURJAULT

Headmaster

Update

Reference(s) : G:\Drive partagés\1-Direction\Préparation de rentrées\Rentrée 2020-2021\Communication\AS 2020-2021 - Présentation générale.docx