



Governor French Academy, Inc.

219 West Main Street, Belleville, IL 62220

2020-2021

Type: Coeducational college-preparatory school

Grades: age 3 – grade 12

Enrollment: School total: 115; Upper School: 17

Head of School: Kim Powers

THE SCHOOL

Governor French Academy was founded in 1983 by a small group of teachers who were dissatisfied with the educational opportunities available to college-bound students in southwestern Illinois. The Academy began with 11 freshmen and sophomores and grew to its full enrollment within four years.

The Academy is named after Augustus C. French, an early governor of the state. Known for his commitment to education, Governor French taught law for several years before the Civil War.

The campus of Governor French Academy is located in Belleville, Illinois, a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. In keeping with its philosophy of providing a demanding academic education that is immediately relevant to the modern world, The Academy has an urban setting, close to the St. Clair County Courthouse and government center.

Governor French Academy serves students from kindergarten preparatory through their twelfth-grade graduation. The Academy's manner of instruction recognizes each student's individuality through extremely flexible teaching techniques within the framework of a highly disciplined curriculum.

Governor French Academy is registered with the Illinois State Board of Education and is accredited by AdvancED (formerly the North Central Association-Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA-CASI). Additionally, the Academy was on the AdvancED's National Advisory Committee on College Preparatory Schools when the organization was NCA - CASI.

The Academy has been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and the State Teacher Certification Board as Providers of Professional Development, and was designated by The Oxford-Cambridge University for International Examinations as an "Invigilator" for advanced level module examinations for English, Literature, History and Psychology.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The State of Illinois and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools have recognized the effectiveness of The Academy's alternative system through its certification and accreditation of its non-graded status. With their parents' approval, students are placed in a class position that is best suited to their needs on the basis of maturity and academic skills. Governor French Academy is able to take this highly individualized approach because of its dedicated staff and small class size.

Students are assigned formal grade distinctions twice during their time at the Academy, eighth and twelfth grades. Promotion and graduation approvals are determined by majority vote of the faculty. The accumulation of credits is not a criterion for graduation. Rather, the faculty votes on whether the student is prepared to go on to the next grade level.

All students, from kindergarten to twelfth grade, study five disciplines: English, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language, and Social Sciences.

The Academy operates on a two-semester system, with an optional summer day school for early grades and a six-week summer institute for all grade levels. Allied divisions of the Academy include services for tutoring and other alternative educational needs. Students receive weekly progress reports to take home. Transcripts reflect the final semester grades. Parents are encouraged to communicate with all members of the Academy's staff.

FACULTY AND ADVISORS

The faculty consists of 14 members, several of whom hold master's degrees. There is a high degree of collegiality, in part because the Academy's individualized program requires continual consultation among faculty members.

Governor French Academy seeks to employ faculty members who know how to teach effectively. To achieve this end,

the Academy developed the Teaching Audition; candidates are not employed until they have demonstrated their skills before students in a classroom setting.

The Academy views itself as a community of students. Therefore, faculty members have responsibilities that involve them in student activities, from athletics to clubs, and bring them in close contact with every student.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Although college placement is seen as an integral part of the Academy's mission, Governor French Academy makes every effort to do more than simply get a student into college. All students receive counseling to see that they are admitted to the college that is best for their talents and goals. All Upper School students participate in the presentations made by numerous visiting college representatives. In addition, a library of college materials is available.

Since the first graduating class, over 96% of its students have been admitted to college. Graduates of past classes have been admitted to over one hundred institutions of higher learning, ranging from MIT, Notre Dame and Harvard to Johnson & Wales School of Culinary Arts and the Curtis Institute of Music.

STUDENT BODY AND CONDUCT

The 2019-2020 school year numbered approximately 115 students with 17 of those students in the Upper School. There is an even distribution of male and female students. Approximately 16 percent of the students have parents who come from countries other than the United States.

Discipline is a function of the Headmaster's office. The relationship between the Upper School students and the Lower School students serves to civilize both ends of the age spectrum. The youngest students emulate the oldest, and the oldest recognize the responsibility that this places on them.

Students are required to meet Lower and Upper School uniform clothing standards.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

Governor French Academy campus consists of the 22,000-square-foot main academic building, a 4,000-square-foot educational annex and the Oliver Curt Joseph Memorial Theatre. This 7,500 square foot building adds an expanded theatre, a fine arts gallery, and additional classroom and conference facilities. Jules Park is a secure, enclosed outdoor play area for The Academy's younger students.

ATHLETICS

Health and fitness are part of school life at the Governor French Academy and include physical fitness activities for all students in preschool through Form III.

Athletics, for Form IV students and all Upper School students, are mandatory to fulfill state physical education requirements. All athletics are scheduled after the completion of the academic day. Form IV students are required to participate in one sport each year. Upper School students participate in two sports per year and may choose from basketball, volleyball, and intramural softball. Drama is also offered.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Governor French Academy requires Form IV and Upper School students to participate in academic, as well as nonacademic, activities. They may choose from a diverse list, which includes drama club, Mu Alpha Theta, science and technology clubs such as Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering,

Based on academic standing and interviews with the Headmaster, seniors may qualify for the senior project. It allows them to focus some of their time and effort on challenges of their own design. Senior projects have included political internships, hospital service, and college-level course work.

Governor French Academy uses the extracurricular time built into students' schedules to integrate them into the world around them. The local community has benefited from the task of community service that the Academy has set for itself.

DAILY LIFE

The day begins at 8 a.m., when all students attend convocation under the direction of the Headmaster. Classes follow immediately and continue until the lunch break from 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Classes resume at 12 p.m. and continue until 4 p.m. Upper School classes continue until 3:00 p.m., at which time extracurricular activities, including athletics, commence. Students are dismissed at 4:00 p.m. We also offer extended hours that allow for a 7:15 a.m. drop-off and pick-up as late as 5:00 p.m. Students requiring before and/or after school care are under the supervision of a teacher at all times where academic activities continue. Charges incur for the before and after school programs.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

GFA's Summer Institute offers a six-week curriculum, beginning the middle of June. The Institute is particularly helpful to students who want to move ahead in their studies or catch up in areas of difficulty. The focus of Summer Institute is on math, reading and English skills, but it may also offer work in science. The student body for Summer Institute consists of equal numbers of Academy students and students from other schools.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All students must pay a non-refundable registration fee. Current tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year is \$7,144.20. There will be a monthly charge to cover book rentals and purchases, supplies, field trips, physical education, drama and athletic fees. Additional charges will be incurred for the required school uniforms, standardized testing, yearbooks, and charges associated with high school graduation.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Governor French Academy actively seeks a diverse student body and admits students without regard to race, color, creed, gender, and ethnic or national origin. Applicants are considered for admission on the basis of interviews with the parents and student. The interviews serve as fact finding events for the Academy and as a means for parents to evaluate the Academy's alternative approach to education.

APPLICATION TIMETABLE

The Director of Admissions will meet with any interested party at any time during the year. Because the Academy promises that classes will be held to sizes that have proved highly effective, some qualified students may be denied admission. The Academy will try to advise students whose needs it cannot meet of other options.

ADMISSIONS CORRESPONDENCE

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