



Dear rising sophomores, juniors, seniors, and parents:

We are pleased to announce the 2024-2025 French exchange with [L'Institut Saint-Dominique de Mortefontaine](#). Mortefontaine is a village located 50 minutes north of Paris. This will be a family-to-family and school-to-school exchange. We are very excited about introducing our students to daily life in a country where the language they are working so hard to master is spoken.

Students of French who are sophomores, juniors, and seniors may apply. The success of the exchange depends on many factors: An open curiosity about the world, a desire to participate in school and family life while in the foreign country, the commitment to be a considerate and accommodating host here at home, the maturity to accept responsibility, the ability to work well in a group, and flexibility under all circumstances.

We look for an applicant's commitment to share, understand, and appreciate cultural differences. In making our choices, we will talk to teachers and deans, and among ourselves. If all things are equal, we give priority to upper classmen, on the assumption that the younger students can apply another year.


I, Isabelle Fisher, and another staff member (TBD) will be taking a group of approximately 10 participants to France during our spring break. The group will leave one day prior to spring break and return before the start of classes in April.

Students will be living with families, attending school with their host students, and participating in excursions to various sites in the area.

Once abroad, students will team up to participate in a dynamic project called "The France Marketing Challenge." Although not graded, this project is mandatory for all exchange students. This activity has two goals. The first one is to engage students in a real-world challenge and to promote cross-cultural understanding. The second is to encourage them to include this unique life experience in their capstone project if they wish to. You will receive more information upon acceptance.

The exchange students from France will arrive in Buffalo from October 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students and families participating in the French exchange trip must be available to host the visiting French students. We plan many excursions and events for the French exchange students in Buffalo. During their stay, the French students participate in activities on and off campus during the school day.

The deadline for returning the application and deposit is **September 27th**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to having your daughter be a part of this exciting adventure.

  
Isabelle Fisher  
French teacher  
Coordinator of French exchange  
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- Dates of exchange:** SEM students in France: March 21- April 2, 2025 (Spring break).  
French exchange students in Buffalo: October 22 - November 3, 2024.



## 2. School organized activities:

### A. *For our students abroad:*

- Attendance and classes at host school
- Paris
- Château de Chantilly (castle)
- Lunch in a crêperie
- Marchés & guided tours
- Other excursions to local points of interest

### B. *For foreign students in Buffalo:*

- Attendance and classes at host school
- Tour of Buffalo architecture
- Excursion to Niagara Falls
- Other excursions to local points of interest

## 3. Family responsibilities:

- Host exchange students for the length of their stay (make them feel like a part of your family!)
- Introduce student to a wide range of American culture (think about Fall activities you could take them on)

## 4. Mandatory meetings:

- Hosting meeting - will take place on **Thursday, October 10th** (student and at least one parent must attend)
- Pre-departure workshop - will take place in February (with students in my classroom)
- Preparation for the “France Marketing Challenge” presentation - will take place in April upon the students’ return

**COSTS:** \$1,980 based on 10 participants (if fewer students participate, the cost will be slightly higher). *If the cost is prohibitive for your family, it is important that you know we will work with you to help cover the travel expenses.*

Price includes:	All travel expenses between Buffalo and France Excursion expenses in France All hosting expenses for organized activities Food
Price <u>do not</u> includes:	Spending money in France Medical services incurred in foreign country

*These costs are based on 10 participants and current airline fares. Significant adjustments in costs could result in additional surcharges due to fluctuating airline prices and taxes.*

## 5. Application Procedure:

- A. Complete and return attached form with **\$200 deposit** by **September 27th**.
- B. The deposit will be refunded to those not accepted for this year’s exchange. It is non-refundable to those accepted, but it will be applied to the cost of the trip.

## Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

My grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Insert a picture of you  
and your family

I live with:

- Both my parents
- My father
- My mother
- Siblings:

Name	Age	Gender

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

House address and phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This sheet is for the student to fill out. In order to best pair you with an exchange student with similar interests, please answer the following questions with precision and honesty.



**My personality**

1. How could you best describe your personality?

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2. What is your favorite subject at school and why?

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3. Do you practice a sport and / or play music?

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4. What do you like to do in your free time?

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5. Do you have any pets? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, please list them here:

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6. Do you have any allergies or food restrictions?

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7. Would you be sharing a room with your exchange student? \_\_\_\_\_

**My family**

1. Explain what you usually do in your house (chores and daily activities)

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2. Choose the following statements that best describe your family life:

- I spend time with my parents
- I spend time with my siblings
- I spend time with my grandparents
- I spend most of my time alone in my room
- I play with my pets a lot
- We like to spend time all together as a family
- We have dinner together most of the time
- My family is always on the go, and we like to organize outdoor activities
- We often have big family events
- We go to church on Sundays

3. Describe a typical weekend:

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4. Have you ever traveled outside the United States? If yes, where and for how long?

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**My commitment:**

I commit to:

- Be respectful of the laws of the country I will be traveling in.
- Be respectful of the school rules, to the teachers, and adults inside and outside the building.
- Be respectful of the lifestyle of my host family, and open minded.
- Respect the rules of places I will visit.
- Not bring any illicit products from USA or consume any while traveling.
- Make a genuine effort to be part of the experience and to contribute to the success of this exchange program.

I understand that:

- My behavior contributes to the valuable relationship between Buffalo Seminary and St-Catherine's school.
- My personal behavior engages in the continuation of the exchange program for the future SEM students.

In the event of a serious breach of the instructions I understand that I may be sent back home at my family's expense.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date