



CLASSES D'ACCUEIL DU CYCLE D'ORIENTATION

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Objectives

To teach a basic knowledge of the French language to foreign students between ages 12 and 15, and, if necessary, to provide them with an average educational standard. Depending on their age, the students will be placed in a 9th, 10th or 11th grade welcome classes.

Location

These classes are distributed among the different middle secondary schools ("Cycle d'Orientation") in Geneva. As often as possible, the students are made to join the school which is located next to where they live. Nevertheless, they may sometimes be sent to more distant schools which are always reachable by public transportation. When the students are allowed to join a regular class, they can choose between staying in the school where they are already studying or entering a closer school.

Contacts with the school staff

The school wishes to establish regular contacts with parents and organises meetings for them. Teachers can be reached at their home number. In each school, a social counselor and a psychologist are available to help the students and their parents.

Number of students in a class

Welcome classes don't exceed twelve students. This allows teachers to follow the students individually according to their level.

School time table

Classes take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday mornings, Thursdays and Fridays.

Morning classes are between 7:50 and 11:40

Afternoon classes are between 13:30 and 16:30

This schedule varies slightly from one school to another.

Syllabus

It includes a large number of French classes. In addition, students have maths, history/geography (discovering their environment), physical education (PE), English and their own native language class. In the 9th and 10th grade, students learn German.

Evaluation

At the beginning, teachers write comments to underline a student's progress. Then, marks are progressively introduced. The best mark is 6 and the minimum mark to pass is 4 (the average).

How long

The students stay in welcome classes only during the length of time necessary to get them ready to follow a regular class in good conditions. They can be transferred to a regular class at any time during the school year and after a number of months which

differ for each student. This decision is taken by the school direction upon the student's class master's request, and with the student and her or his parents' agreement.

Guiding the student into a regular class

The student is guided into a certain stream after considering his or her capabilities. The "Cycle d'Orientation" prepares students to go to high secondary schools (école de culture générale, collège de Genève) or to vocational training (craft industry, arts, commerce, technical classes, agriculture) within a school or within a firm.

Absences

In case of illness or accident : call the school secretary or a teacher, then give the student a written note explaining the reason for her or his absence when she or he goes back to school. If the student is absent more than three days a doctor's certificate must be added to the note. In case of a planned absence (*doctor's appointment, exams*): a written request must be sent to the school principal at least ten days before the student's absence.

Some practical information

Equipment

School is free of charge and the books and work books are given to the student. Students should have a schoolbag as well as pens and pencils. As far as PE is concerned, students should bring a T-shirt, leggings or shorts, trainers and a towel for the shower.

Health insurance

A health insurance covering illness and accidents is compulsory. Parents with low incomes can ask the social counselors of each college to get information about government subsidies.

Public transportation

A reduced price monthly ticket is available for teenagers. It allows them to use public transportation all over the Geneva area.

School of parents

French classes especially for parents have been set up. For more information, please contact the secretariat of the School of parents at 022 327 05 30 or by email: ecoledeparents@etat.ge.ch

Registering your child for primary or secondary school II (*Bring if possible a residence permit as well as a health insurance certificate*)

Elementary school (4 - 12 years old) : you should go directly to the nearest elementary school in your area for registration. Enrollment will be ensured by the school directors.

Secondary school II (15 -19 years old) : please make an appointment with *Accueil du Secondaire II (ACCES II)* – Rue Rousseau 8 - 1201 Genève – phone: 022 388 12 60