

The Future of Cultured Students  
By Lindsay Smythe Doucet  
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Children all over the nation are training to become our countries head leaders. Primary education in the early stages of their schooling prepares them to become the successful individuals needed for our changing society. École Saint-Landry is a French emersion charter school in Louisiana that provides students from pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade with academic, linguistic, and cultural experiences to prepare them for their future.

Charter schools were first created in 1992 and offer a wide variety to how students learn. Students in charter schools do not pay tuition. Diversity stems from creative schooling approaches. École Saint-Landry allows educators to take innovative measures in their teaching styles which improves student achievement. The modern student strives in charter schools because their education stems from their personal needs and not a set learning scale.

École Saint-Landry's educational approaches embrace the Louisiana culture. Students learn the history of French communities and how natives traveled around the world. Many students can connect with their family heritage through classes. The common goal of the employees at École Saint-Landry is to have children appreciate cultures worldwide and give them a better understanding of all communities they will encounter. Students enjoy minorities and understand the differences in their peers. Creating bonds with each other helps the children to improve their social and communication skills.

Learning a new language at a young age is much easier than trying to when older. The students at École Saint-Landry can start from as early as three years old to understand the basic concepts of French. The initial education also makes learning multiple languages in their life much simpler because they can see the similarities between French and languages such as Spanish and Latin.

Students who attend École Saint-Landry are known to travel around the world more often than the typical individual because they have a better understanding of the countries they are visiting. Fifty-three countries around the world speak French. They learn to communicate with the population they have chosen to enter, and their memories are highly enhanced. Adventures become legendary with they can make a life-long connection with the natives of the communities.

Charter schools provide an outstanding education to students who would not usually have this type of opportunity. Many students come from low-income families who could not afford the quality education provided if not for charter schools. Charter schools are centered in areas that education is lacking. The teachers, employees, and staff all come together through a passion for providing children the experiences and education needed to help create successful individuals.

Charter schools, including École Saint-Landry, must be provided the funding needed for basic operations to continue in their path of success. Often they are excluded from grants that could help to improve their educational ventures. Charter schools are more successful than the primary schools in the school district. Charter schools earn their place in the community and work every

day to stay open and reach students. For charter schools to prevent closure, students must be successful.

École Saint-Landry is held accountable to the state as well as the students' families. They continue to make improvements day by day to ensure they are conforming to the modern student's educational needs. All of the employees strive to meet the standard set by investors to continue to change the future of schooling. They also set high standards for the students and encourage the best possible academic performance.

École Saint-Landry is partnered with the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana to recruit leaders and employees for the school that are native French speakers. Employees hired must meet all the standards and requirements of the state and the community. The school does not have tenure, so employees must be required daily to show passion in the classroom. Students' success directly reflects the success of the faculty, staff, and school as a whole.

Students in charter schools can participate in basic educational processes as well as unique extra-curricular activities. They learn about diversity as well through their peers who come from multiple backgrounds and communities. Charter schools such as École Saint-Landry are the coming future of education for the Acadiana community and students worldwide.

Bio: My name is Lindsey Smythe Doucet and I and I am the school leader at École Saint-Landry. I am a bilingual educator with 16 years of experience ranging from elementary education to the university level. I received my Master's in Education from Louisiana State University and

trained in French at Universite Sainte-Anne in Nova Scotia. I received my certification in Education Leadership from the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans.