



Lycée St. Vincent – St. Lys, France
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This year, I got lucky enough to be able to go on exchange to France for six weeks. Everyone I met, including my exchange family, was very welcoming and kind. My exchange's name is Marie, and she lives in a small town called Chantilly. It is about an hour outside of Paris. Chantilly might be small but there are many things to do. There's a famous castle called "Chateau Chantilly", that got rebuilt a few times over the centuries, and it is beautiful. Chantilly is also known for "la crème Chantilly" since it was originated in Chantilly, and is the translation of whipped cream in English.

Since the school was not located in Chantilly, we had to take a twenty-five minute bus ride every day to get to school in another town called St. Lys. The school is called Lycée St. Vincent, and was built in 1836. It is very old looking, but has a lot of elegance to its structure. The classroom has a very different atmosphere than at LCC. The students stay in the same class all day for basic subjects, while the teachers move around. When you leave the classroom, you're left standing outside where there are many small lockers for books. Their school day ends later than at LCC, which was another great change for me. It was amazing to be able to understand the teachers, while enriching my French at the same time by participating. Everyone was very nice, and I made a lot of friends that I will keep for a very long time. After getting used to the way my exchange lives, I never wanted to leave.

I had many wonderful opportunities to visit Paris and Versailles with the school, and la Cote D'Azur, and Lille with my exchange family. Every place we visited had a great impact on me. Everything built in France has history, and it was very interesting to learn a lot about another country, especially since France and Quebec have great history as well.

Overall, France is a remarkable country. There are so many wonderful things to do, and many new things to learn. I'm glad that I got to experience a different atmosphere than the one that I'm used to in Montreal and I would encourage everyone to do an exchange, and move outside of their comfort zone to broaden their perspectives on the world.