



# NEUCHÂTEL JUNIOR COLLEGE

*Fondé en 1956 Suisse* **Step Outside**

A Canadian High School in Switzerland

**Step Outside**  
Curious Minds to Global Citizens



# NEUCHÂTEL JUNIOR COLLEGE



“To be a leader today, one must travel the world.”



# HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE

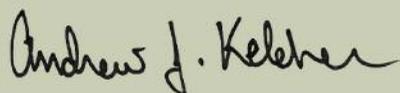
One characteristic of all good students is an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Our unique school, perched on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel in the beautiful Swiss town of the same name, is ideally suited to students of this kind. Students come to us eager to learn more about the world around them; drawn to change, they sense that the world has more to offer them if they could just step outside the boundaries of their local experiences. Neuchâtel Junior College exists for these types of students at this pivotal time in their lives, and here, they learn about themselves as much as they learn about the world.

In 1956, NJC's visionary Founder, Leonard Wilde, knew that, "To be a leader today, one must travel the world." This enduring idea is just as – if not more – relevant today. As much as our students have likely travelled to places with their families before, in most cases, they have not gone on an extended, independent journey. The Neuchâtel experience offers a view of the world beyond childhood borders, and our trips are integrated with the curriculum to make the learning experience richer and fuller. The fact that students have chosen this journey to NJC sets them apart both geographically and personally from where they began, thereby transforming them well beyond the potential of any single school trip experienced before.

Over the course of many months, our students explore centres of Western European civilization, which helped to shape our own culture, giving them knowledge of the past with which to consider the future. They visit unfamiliar and exotic places to gain an insight into the similarities and differences of other cultures in this increasingly global community. Inspired by NJC's program, our students also learn that they can have a positive impact on each place they visit. This may be through participation in a service trip, involvement in a Model UN activity, or by helping to make our school community a better place through personal character, talent, ideas and leadership. All of this they experience while immersed in their studies, surrounded by inspiring teachers and classmates, and living with a local Swiss, French-speaking family. This formula, unique in the world for over 60 years, consistently opens minds, broadens perspectives, and inspires graduates to make their place in the world more meaningful and purposeful.

Who is best suited to attend Neuchâtel Junior College? I would encourage you to take advantage of this transformational experience if you are willing to meet two very important expectations. You must come prepared to work hard in your academic studies and be curious about the world around you; these are prerequisites so that you will be able to apply your newfound knowledge, confidence, independence and leadership in your chosen university, in the career that you wish to pursue, and throughout your life.

I look forward to meeting you soon. A bientôt!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. Keleher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew J. Keleher

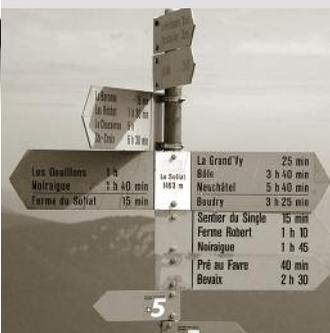
On the flight to Switzerland I went  
back and forth between apprehension  
and exhilaration about what lies  
ahead. I have no idea what to expect,  
although I've been told I'm about  
to experience the best year of my  
life. Today was my best day so far...  
I felt like myself for the first time.  
We started talking about real things  
instead of just where we are from.  
I've spent the past week with these  
other students previously unknown  
to me and, throughout the orientation  
trip, we have become friends. I know  
I'm going to love it here!

# YOUR LIFE IS ABOUT TO GET INTERESTING

Neuchâtel Junior College, located in the French-speaking town of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, offers a one-year, pre-university program that is anything but just another year of high school. It's a place for young men and women to study, to travel, and to learn about their course work, about other cultures, and about themselves. All this, to better prepare themselves for university and for life.

Neuchâtel Junior College was founded in 1956 by an Englishman named Leonard Wilde as an educational institution with a vision extending far beyond traditional academics. It is located at the foot of the Jura Mountains in northwest Switzerland in a university town of nearly 60,000 people. Its "student-town" atmosphere opens up a whole world to our family of students, of learning, culture, and meeting new people. Likewise, the people of Neuchâtel are warm, welcoming and eager to embrace the NJC students who arrive each year, fresh off the plane and ready to experience all that Europe has to offer.

New arrivals to NJC are excited and uncertain at the same time. It is exactly this mix of emotions that makes the NJC experience a worthwhile journey. Meeting new people and making life-long friends is what creates the feeling of an extended global family. It's a time for learning by doing and by experiencing that which you have only read about before, and this is reflected in every aspect of NJC.



I JUST ARRIVED IN NEUCHÂTEL AND MET MY  
MONSIEUR AND HIS 17-YEAR OLD SON. I  
CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING THEY'RE SAYING  
BUT THEY SEEM LIKE NICE PEOPLE! THEY PICKED  
ME UP FROM THE SCHOOL AND DROVE ME TO MY  
NEW HOME; A QUAIN'T SWISS HOUSE SURROUNDED  
BY VINEYARDS. I AM FINALLY HERE. I HAVE NO  
IDEA WHAT I HAVE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO. I  
AM GOING TO LIVE HERE FOR THE NEXT 10  
MONTHS OF MY LIFE! WHEN I SAT DOWN  
ON MY BED FOR THE FIRST TIME, I LAUGHED  
A BIT, THEN I WANTED TO CRY A BIT.  
THEN I JOINED MY NEW FAMILY FOR MY  
FIRST MEAL IN MY NEW HOME, AND  
ATTEMPTED TO SPEAK FRENCH.

# YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS WITHIN YOUR NEW HOME

Living in a new country is an exciting, yet daunting idea. For many reasons, our students do not board in an institutional setting. To give them a source of comfort and a sense of home while living abroad, NJC students live *'en pension'* with *pension* families. NJC has established relationships with local Swiss families in Neuchâtel's idyllic, surrounding villages. By living with the Swiss, students truly cease being tourists.

In the canton of Neuchâtel, residents are French-speaking, so regardless of ability when they arrive on the doorstep, NJC students' ability to speak French improves rapidly. In the home, along with a new language, there is exposure to new customs, new traditions, and, without a doubt, delicious new food. Since nearly all of our *pensions* are situated in the picturesque villages surrounding Neuchâtel, travel by train, tram or bus between home and school is the norm and is often the first taste of independence and adult life.

The *pension* experience gives our students a wonderful new perspective of themselves, others and the world that neither home nor a dormitory can parallel. It is in an environment outside of one's comfort zone that one learns to adapt, to be more confident, and to become independent. Recent studies have even scientifically confirmed what NJC has witnessed year after year: that it is by living within a new culture, not just visiting it, that contributes to increased creativity, ingenuity and innovation in individuals.

We understand that *pension* placement is vital to the success of the student's overall experience. We recognize that every student has different needs, and so do our *pension* families; therefore, it is a bit of a puzzle to put together, but we have successfully matched students and families attentively and with care for over half a Century. According to our alumni, it is one of the most cherished aspects of their NJC experience.





- Pre-University year studies: Grade 12 or GAP
- Grade 12 University Preparation level courses and the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP)
- Students earn the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, which is highly regarded by post-secondary institutions worldwide
- All courses, except for foreign languages, are instructed in English
- Student to teacher ratio is 10:1, with an average class size of 14
- Graduates are consistently admitted to the world's finest universities



# A CAMPUS UNLIKE ANY OTHER

In so many respects, our school is unlike any other in the world. Our campus sits up high on a hill with a magnificent, unobstructed view of Lake Neuchâtel. On clear days, the Swiss Alps can be seen from the Junior College's expansive terrace. This long range, spectacular view signifies the new view on the world that our students gain by spending time in this special place called Neuchâtel.

The campus has three buildings – *Le Foyer*, *Le Pavillon* and *Le Centre d'Etudes*. As you step into the yellow-brick *Foyer*, built as a private residence at the turn of the 20th Century, you immediately get a sense of NJC's history. The *Foyer* is where students visit the Guidance Office to discuss university placement, the upcoming SAT exam, or how they are adapting to their new experiences. Other administrative offices are also located in the *Foyer*, should students wish to pick up a care package from home, get some travel advice, or meet with the Head of School. Throughout the day, students are also welcome to gather for meetings or quiet discussions in the Common Room, the exquisitely-appointed formal room called *Le Salon*, and the Student Club Room.

Adjacent to the *Foyer* is the *Centre d'Etudes*, which provides a relaxed atmosphere for research and study. Here, students may work independently in a modern study space or collaborate in groups with the latest technology at their fingertips, including a wireless environment for communicating, researching and printing.

What you find in the *Pavillon*, where classes take place, is similar to most schools: student lockers, classrooms, the science lab, a print library, and a computer resource centre; however, what takes place here is far from the norm. Students are encouraged on a daily basis to think beyond what a typical curriculum asks of them, drawing from what they are seeing and experiencing outside the classroom. Our faculty is responsible for creating the environment in which this can take place. Teachers are selected on the basis of their academic credentials as well as their interest in making NJC's educational opportunities a reality for every student. Naturally, the faculty-student relationship is close since teachers are not only instructors in the classroom, but also tutors as required, chaperones on excursions, coaches during competitions, and mentors in every circumstance.



I am doing my best to balance school and travel. The teachers here are some of the most gifted teachers I have ever had the opportunity to learn from. They clearly enjoy their work, and genuinely care about us. They are relentless with homework, but every assignment I do and essay I write has a purpose and teaches me something new. I am painting like Van Gogh, I am graphing logarithmic equations, I write poems, study Plato and Descartes, and finally understand globalization. I am being taught from notions and theories, and, most importantly, I am being taught to work efficiently.

# THE NJC APPROACH TO ACADEMICS

Without question, the Junior College stresses the importance of a traditional and rigorous academic program. At NJC, the acquisition of knowledge is recognized as a multi-dimensional process. It is often during this time abroad that students formulate ideas about who they are and who they want to become, so we also encourage students to make full use of the increased responsibilities and independence they are afforded to learn in new, enriching ways. The superior academics at NJC are complemented by a full schedule of excursions throughout Europe and beyond, participation in challenging competitions, exposure to insights from stimulating guest speakers, and an offering of profound international service projects.

Representing your school on the world stage is empowering. NJC participates once each semester in the New European Speech, Debating and Acting Association competition and in the Model United Nations. Involvement in these events is voluntary. They take place in exciting destination cities from St Petersburg to The Hague and provide intellectual and social exposure to peers from around the world.

Learning from people who work on the international stage is inspiring. Our guest speaker series exposes students to a variety of career options, philosophies and world views. Recent speakers have included those from the World Economic Forum, the World Health Organization, the United Nations, *Médecins sans Frontières*, and from the areas of international business, journalism and arbitration.

Helping others through international service projects not only provides cross-cultural exchange and a deepened understanding of global issues, but also acts as the impetus for our graduates to become more effective leaders in their home communities. Recent projects have included building a home in Hungary with Habitat for Humanity, delivering LED lighting to a remote village during a trek to Nepal, and building schools in Kenya with the international social enterprise, WE.

We are well aware that formal preparation for university admission is essential. Since 1956, NJC has had the distinct advantage of focusing its curriculum, programming and resources on students who are all in their pre-university year. Many factors are at play to ensure that students have the best advice and support, the foundation of which is a structured university placement program. Students also derive a natural energy and focus from this dedicated, university-bound community. NJC graduates are consistently admitted to the universities of their choice in Canada, the United States and throughout the world.



I've never accomplished so much in such a short period of time. Beyond course work and travel, there are so many extra-curricular activities to choose from. Whether I was snowboarding in Verbier, preparing for the Model UN in St. Petersburg, or working on the school newspaper, I was doing what I chose to do. I became involved in what interested me, and I managed my own time.

# LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

To make sure our students have a healthy measure of fun to balance off the demands of academic life, NJC offers an abundance of extra-curricular activities. Whether through clubs or competitive and intramural sports, there is no shortage of activities from which to choose.

Sports at NJC include hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, swimming and more. Other activities students are welcome to participate in include rowing, sailing, riding, tennis, golf, skiing and snowboarding, hiking, cycling, fitness training, yoga and more.

For those interested in other pursuits, NJC offers clubs centred around film, environment, drama, photography, yearbook, and social media. Students wishing to continue with dance or music lessons will find that the *Académie de Ballet* and Royal Conservatory of Music are accessible and nearby.

Local opportunities abound throughout the year for physical, outdoor and cultural pursuits within Switzerland called *Les Défis* and *Les Découvertes*. These school-organized excursions not only provide students with physical and cultural challenges, but expose them to team sports, the outdoors, vineyard villages and rampart towns steeped in art, folklore and history.

There also exist a number of leadership roles within the Junior College, including The Foyer Committee, which compares to Student Council in other schools, and the Student Ambassador program.



It's hard to complain about History essays on Napoleon when we've just spent part of the weekend visiting the site of his last unsuccessful battle. How can Philosophy class be boring when you are discussing Rousseau's political views while hiking the very same route where he took his "nature walks" 200 years ago. In law, how about learning about the legendary Geneva Convention that took place an hour and a half train ride away from where we are sitting in class? I'll never forget Remembrance Day in Ypres, snorkeling through the crystal clear water in Thailand and watching the sun rise over the dunes in the Sahara. History is giving me a new perspective on people and cultures, as well as respect for differences between people, and the beauty of foreign languages. We really do live in a small world.

# LEARNING FAR, FAR BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At NJC, we feel the best way to complement what students are learning in the classroom is to expose them to what is outside of it. And there is no better way to gain exposure to the world than by living in a new place and travelling.

It's one thing to read about something, and it is quite another to experience it. By organizing day trips and extended excursions, we ensure that our students learn and understand, rather than just memorize and recite. The study of Philosophy is more meaningful when hiking where Rousseau took many of his pensive nature walks. A field trip to CERN's renowned Particle Physics Laboratory on the border of France and Switzerland is inspiring to all who study science and mathematics. Students of all disciplines are moved when standing before da Vinci's Mona Lisa; and the sacrifice, futility and complexity of war are better understood when visiting Flanders Fields and Auschwitz.

Once students have a taste for travel, they are keen to explore in a different way. When they prove themselves academically and exhibit readiness and maturity, they are permitted to embark on independent weekend trips. In small groups, they visit many of the world's most interesting places, all within a few hours by train from Neuchâtel, including Vienna, Munich, Paris, Milan, Geneva, Brussels, and many more.

The bonds that students make with each other on these trips can last a lifetime. Likewise, the exposure to different cultures, people and locations throughout the world gives NJC students a new respect for, and an advantage in, today's global community.



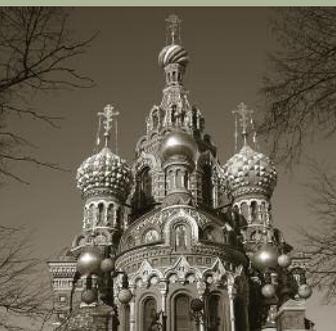
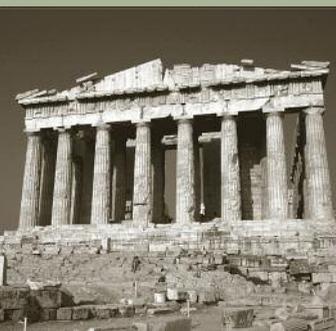
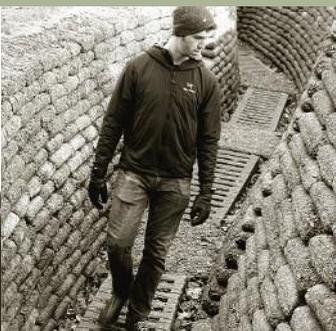


"History is coming to life, and each trip is giving me a new perspective on people and cultures."





"The knowledge that I have acquired and the wisdom I have gained this year are immeasurable."



I haven't explored the whole town yet, but Neuchâtel is beautiful. filled with history, and the architecture is amazing. There are lots of people my age, this is really a student town. For a small place, I'm surprised at how much there is to do; museums, art galleries, the swim complex, fitness clubs, cafés. And the campus is great. The foyer looks out over the lake and the Alps, and some of our classrooms face the Alps too!

# LAND OF FONDUE, VINEYARDS, WATCH-MAKING, AND CHOCOLATE

When you think of Switzerland, what comes to mind? Mountains? Snow? Chocolate? Field after field of cows with big bells around their necks? You won't be disappointed. You will also learn that Switzerland is known for its cleanliness, efficiency, safety, hospitality, peace and democracy.

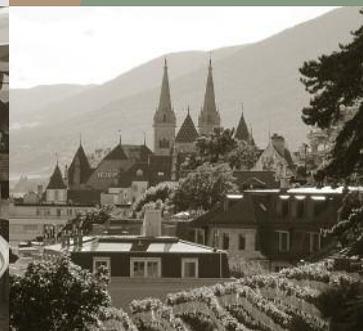
Neuchâtel is a 13th Century town settled by the Romans. This historical town is full of old-world charm, impressive architecture and natural beauty. Although the town is French-speaking, don't be surprised to hear German, Italian, and Romansh being spoken – the other official languages of Switzerland.

When they're not busy with classes, travelling, or, well, sleeping, students of NJC can enjoy their home base, the town of Neuchâtel. There is plenty to do, see and explore, including museums, art galleries, the symphony, theatre, festivals, and the scenic beauty of Lake Neuchâtel, the Alps, and the Jura.

NJC's proximity to the town centre, the university, and other local schools offers other resources to our students, both academic and social. Students soon discover that their new home is an interesting and exciting place to live.

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Neuchâtel's climate is temperate with a lengthy Autumn. There is little snow accumulation throughout the Winter months in town, but the surrounding mountainous region offers extensive cross-country trails and excellent alpine skiing and snowboarding. Spring comes early, and by late February the tulips are in bloom, and it's the perfect time of year to bike around the lake or hike in the Jura.



This school is a catalyst. It changes people. It has not always been comfortable, but it has been invigorating. I am a stronger and more self-reliant person today. I believe in myself and know that I have the strength of character to accept challenges, endure, and survive. The knowledge that I have acquired and the wisdom I have gained this year are immeasurable. Goodbyes will be difficult. This year has brought me more joy, laughter and amazement than I had ever hoped it to. I leave NJC a bit older, a bit wiser, and certainly, much more fulfilled. I have discovered Europe and the wonders it holds. My eyes are open to the greater world. I know that borders are not limits that can hold me back. The world is open for me to explore it. I leave happy with what I made of the year, one step closer to becoming an adult, I know that NJC has helped me define who I am and who I want to become.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT CREDITS YOU'LL EARN AT NEUCHÂTEL JUNIOR COLLEGE

The credits earned in the classroom get our students into the universities of their choice. The life credits earned outside the classroom give them the foundation for success when they get there.

Outstanding academic preparation, stimulating travel, meaningful service projects and living within a new culture as a European are all, considered individually, exceptional experiences. In combination, in a concentrated period of time, and at just the right age, they result in tremendous personal and intellectual growth.

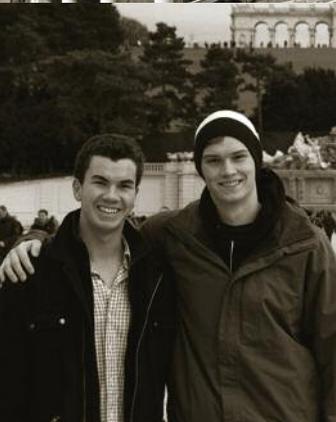
NJC gives students an uncommon edge: they develop real-world knowledge before they set foot on a university campus as an undergraduate; they gain confidence in themselves to pursue any opportunity or challenge that life presents; they experience independence well before their peers and learn to shoulder it with maturity, grace and responsibility; and, as a result of these developments, they are primed for a life of leadership.

The transformative NJC experience empowers students to forever apply their knowledge, to have confidence in their unique abilities, and to be exceedingly independent allowing them to lead their own lives and create a positive difference in the world.

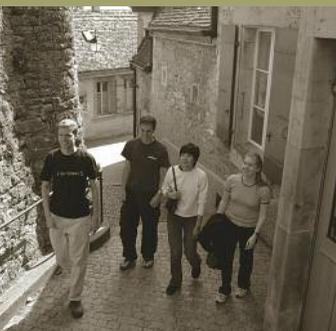


I changed from the person people expected me to be into the person I wanted to be. I discovered what I want out of life and forgot about what other people thought I wanted. I began to realize what is valuable as opposed to what is pricey. All of these things, all of these huge, sweeping changes in my life, are a direct result of the past ten months. I left my old life behind me in order to get a new perspective, and that's exactly what I got. I met new people, experienced different landscapes, and grew to understand unique cultures. I have come to realize that family is not just a support mechanism, friends are not just a pastime, and happiness is not just a potential deterrent to progress. I have learned that these things are central to what I want from life. Learning these things didn't result in my forgetting what I left behind, but simply added to the mosaic of my knowledge. Each different perspective, each new and original thought, and each experience increases my understanding of what I want and, more importantly, what I have.

I am not even close to finished. There's still a lot of world to see, many people to meet, and an infinite amount of wisdom which I can never hope to grasp but I'll try anyway, because, well, it's what I enjoy doing. My greatest realization this year was that I don't need, or even want, a higher purpose or some overriding point to anything, I just want to do what I love and help others do the same. I love to write, I love my friends, I love my family, I love Cola, I love to learn, and I love my cat; my only goal in life is to live happily with these things. What this year gave me was perspective; I experienced new things, and, until now, I never really understood how important this is. What I've loved about NJC is that it's an education based around understanding, a notion which the world could use a lot more of.



"I left my old life behind me in order to get a new perspective, and that's exactly what I got."





"I am not even close to finished. There's still a lot of world to see."



Уважаемые клиенты! Мы рады приветствовать вас в нашей уютной атмосфере!  
 Мы предлагаем вам лучшие туры и услуги по всей Европе!  
 Бюджетно, быстро и качественно!  
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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by the following NJC graduates:

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Ben King

Genevieve Meisenheimer

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## **Our Purpose**

Igniting a lifelong sense of adventure, courage and purpose  
through an extraordinary, immersive education.



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