MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVANCED SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Congratulations on your decision to participate in the Lewisville ISD (LISD) elementary Dual Language or Spanish Immersion program! We are excited to provide an opportunity for students to continue their Spanish language development from elementary into middle school. LISD is committed to offering a consistent Advanced Spanish Language Program across middle schools.

The Advanced Spanish Language Program in middle school extends students’ proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, culminating in the AP Spanish Language & Culture exam. Successful completion of these courses fulfill the high school graduation requirement for World Languages. A special emphasis is placed on refining Spanish reading, writing, and language arts skills through the analysis of advanced Spanish non-fiction and fiction texts. The genres of study are cross-curricular in nature and include topics such as leadership, contemporary society, economics, history and culture.

Only students who have successfully participated in an uninterrupted sequence of language learning in elementary Dual Language, Spanish Immersion programs, or are native/heritage Spanish speakers with a level of language proficiency can participate in the Advanced Spanish Language Program.

The Advanced Spanish Language Program currently consists of the following middle school course sequence:

- 6th Grade - Spanish 2 PreAP for Spanish Speakers
- 7th Grade - Spanish 3 PreAP for Spanish Speakers
- 8th Grade - Spanish 4 AP Language and Culture

Study in these specifically designed PreAP courses provide the solid foundation for the challenge of the college-level Advanced Placement exam in 8th grade. LISD is one of only a handful of districts that offer this opportunity for middle school students who are ready to handle the rigor of a college-level Spanish course. Students may have an opportunity to earn college credit upon successful performance on this AP exam. Additionally, this will allow students to begin learning a third language upon entering high school or continue to take an additional level of AP Spanish.

This approach will continue the outstanding instruction and outcomes from the elementary language programs and we are excited to watch our Dual Language and Spanish Immersion students continue to thrive as part of this program.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Will the elementary Dual Language Program be continued?
A. There are no plans to discontinue elementary dual language programs.

Q. Will the elementary Spanish Immersion Program be continued?
A. There are no plans to discontinue this elementary program of choice. LISD is pleased to be one of a small number of districts in North Texas to provide this type of enrichment language program at select elementary schools.

Q. Why is a content-specific program not being offered at middle school campuses?
A. Information previously provided indicated the middle school program was expected to mirror the elementary program. As the program continued to develop, we discovered maintaining staffing necessary to continue in this manner would not be sustainable across all middle schools offering the program, due to the lack of secondary teachers that have a bilingual certification and content area certification.

Q. What is the district doing to increase retention and recruitment efforts for hiring bilingually certified staff?
A. The recruitment of certified bilingual staff is a challenge across Texas and the United States. Even still, the percentage of diverse staff in Lewisville ISD has climbed from 10% to 16% over the past 5 school years. To increase interest of certified bilingual staff in Lewisville ISD, we commit to the following strategies:

★ Continue to advertise Lewisville ISD as an employer in traditional and social media aimed at diverse audiences.
★ Continue to enhance professional relationships with colleges and universities across the state that produce bilingual and minority candidates.
★ Continue to attend local, regional and statewide employment fairs to connect with bilingual and minority candidates.

Q. What type of success rate do middle school 8th grade students currently have on the AP Spanish 4 exam?
A. On an AP exam students can score a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. In 2016, 72% of 8th graders who took the AP Spanish 4 exam earned a 3, 4, or 5. According to the College Board, many colleges and universities grant credit and placement for scores of 3, 4 or 5; however, each college decides which scores it will accept.

Q. What are the benefits of AP courses?
A. According to the College Board, by taking an AP course and scoring successfully on the related AP Exam, you can save on college expenses. Most colleges and universities nationwide offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam scores. These credits can allow students to save college tuition, study abroad or secure a second major. Taking an AP course, the most rigorous courses high schools have to offer, lets colleges and universities know that your student has what it takes to succeed in an undergraduate environment. When admissions officers see “AP” on a transcript, they know that what they experienced in a particular class has prepared them well for the challenges of college.

Q. Is the Spanish 3 PreAP course in middle school the same course as the Spanish 3 PreAP at the high school?
A. No, the middle school course is designed specifically for Spanish Speakers that are coming with significant language experiences.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know students can earn a performance acknowledgement upon graduation in bilingualism and biliteracy? A performance acknowledgement is an opportunity for students to earn an additional acknowledgement on their transcript for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy. Here are the guidelines from the Texas Education Agency for students to meet in order to earn this performance acknowledgement:

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment by demonstrating proficiency in accordance with local school district grading policy in two or more languages by completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100 and satisfying one of the following:

★ completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or

★ demonstrated proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or

★ completion of at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; or

★ demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods: a score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; or a score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a higher-level language other than English course; or performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent

This information is available at lisd.net/mlanguage Additional questions? Email mslanguage@lisd.net