

OAKLAND MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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February 5, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians of Grade 6 Students:

This letter will help guide you and your child through the selection process for World Language and Performing Arts. After reading this letter, we encourage you and your child to discuss their strengths and interests to make informed decisions.

World Language

Current Grade 6 students have the **option** of taking French or Spanish in Grade 7. The World Language program is a two-year program that prepares students to take French II or Spanish II in Grade 9 and enables students to pursue World Language study through the Advanced Placement level during high school.

All students with a strong interest in learning a language will need to consider the following information:

- The World Language course is a rigorous academic subject in addition to the four required courses in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The World Language course will involve regular homework, varied and multiple assessments, and an end of 8th grade course assessment.
- In grades 7 & 8 World Language is offered every day for a full year, in a daily fifty-minute class period.
- Enrollment in the World Language program is a two-year commitment that prepares students for higher levels of World Language in high school. Students will receive high school credit after successfully completing both years of the middle school World Language course. Student's final grade for the course in 8th grade will appear on their high school transcript.
- Providing World Language for all interested students requires staffing based on student enrollment. Funding and the availability of highly qualified teachers are also critical factors.
- Students and parents should carefully consider the additional rigor of coursework when discussing the World Language option. Students need to be highly motivated, express a strong degree of interest, and be willing to work hard. Students demonstrating academic gaps, especially in reading and mathematics, should carefully consider not taking World Language at this time. It is important to note that the high school schedule provides many options to access World Language at that level.

Performing Arts

Students currently enrolled in band, orchestra, or chorus in Grade 6 will be recommended for placement into performing arts for grade 7. If the student no longer wishes to take a performing art course, would like to change the performing art selection, or add a performing art if they do not already have one then the parent/guardian should complete a course placement review form.

Every Parent/Guardian and student needs to complete and return the attached form by **Friday, February 14, 2020**, to **your child's homeroom teacher**. Placement of all interested students into World Language is contingent upon funding, class size, and teacher recruitment. Please do not hesitate to call your school counselor should you need assistance.



Allen Cosentino
Principal

World Language Selection Request

Please choose **one** of the following:

- I would like my child to take Spanish in Grade 7.
- I would like my child to take French in Grade 7 (course available only if enough requests received).
- My student will not take a World Language in Grade 7.

Student Name : _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____