

# World Language Study Committee

Syosset Central School District



# Committee Members

Mr. David Balsamo, Administrative Assistant, Syosset High School

Ms. Michelle L. Burget, Principal, South Woods Middle School

Dr. Michael Cohen, Board President

Ms. Lynda D'Anna, Spanish and Italian Teacher, Syosset High School

Ms. Tracy Frankel, Board Trustee

Dr. Ronald Friedman, Interim Superintendent

Ms. V. Dolly Kranz, Coordinator of Testing, Planning and Administration

Mr. Joshua A. Lafazan, Board Trustee

Ms. Jacqueline Lucci, French Teacher, H.B.T. Middle School

Ms. Josephine Maietta, Elementary Italian Teacher / Elementary W.L. Coordinator

Ms. April M. Neuendorf, Board Trustee

Ms. Susan Parker, Board Trustee

Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Laura Schlesinger, Board Trustee

Mr. Chad Snyder, Principal, Walt Whitman Elementary School

Dr. Jeffrey B. Streitman, Deputy Superintendent

# Our Committee's Work

- Review our current World Language elementary program
- Research other models for elementary World Language instruction
- Evaluate our program in World Language, K-12

# FLEX

(Foreign Language Experience)

# FLES

(Foreign Language in Elementary School)

GOAL: Introduce students to several languages and the concept of language study

Understanding and appreciation of several target cultures

TIME: 60 minutes per week

Syosset's Program

OUTCOMES:

- Breadth of experience
- Novelty factor
- Informed decision for middle school language choice

GOAL: Develop proficiency in one target language  
(Most frequently Spanish)

Understanding and appreciation of one target culture

TIME: 60 minute per week

Garden City, Hauppauge, Jericho, Oceanside, Rockville Center

OUTCOMES:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Spanish "burnout"

# The Dual Language/Bilingual Model

- Instruction in both English and the target language (typically Spanish)
- Time: 50%/50%, English/Target Language
- Content (Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies) is taught in both languages
- Teachers: bilingual or students move from English class to Target Language class
- Huntington: Spanish and English speaking population
- Observation: Students reach 11<sup>th</sup> grade level by 9<sup>th</sup> grade

# Our Goals

Students should:

- Develop communicative proficiency in a language
- Understand another culture through its language
- Have a variety of target language options
- Be motivated, excited and passionate about studying a language
- Reach high levels of proficiency in advanced courses, if they choose to do so
- Continue in World Language through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

# Our Program: Middle School

- Choice of French, Italian or Spanish
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 40 minutes alternating days
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 40 minutes everyday
- Latin at Lunch
- Current language enrollment:

Language	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Spanish	341	353	301
Italian	89	79	80
French	54	62	45

# Our Program: Syosset High School

Language:	Courses:	Enrollment:
French	Levels 2-5 and Honors 2-AP	239
Italian	Levels 2-5 and Honors 2-AP	346
Spanish	Levels 2-5 and Honors 2-AP	1144
American Sign Language	ASL 1&2	66
Russian	Russian 1, 2, & 3	29
Chinese	Introduction to Mandarin Chinese	17
Latin	Latin 1, 2, 3 & Exploring Latin	117
Japanese	Japanese 1, 2, 3, & 4	51

- AP Level courses in French, Italian and Spanish.
- 90% of students study a World Language
- 76% of current Senior class enrolled in World Language
- 12% of students study two languages



# Student Conversation

Lynn Hur

Rebecca Sobel

# The Committee's Recommendations

## Considering...

- high achievement levels in World Language Program
- Wide variety of languages offered
- High percentage of seniors who study language
- Students who choose to study two languages

## Recommendation:

- Preserve our FLEX program as it currently exists.

## Rationale:

- Single language program yields few proficiency gains
- Possible negative effects:
  - Limit student choice
  - Decrease motivation
  - Narrow breadth of cultural understanding.

# Moving Forward

- Possible World Language option for summer school
- Expanded use of technology in World Language classes, such as Skype Pals or E-Pals
- Part 154, possible need for a bilingual program in Chinese