



Clark Public Schools

Carl H. Kumpf Middle School

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Richard Delmonaco

Principal

Amanda J. Clarke

Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning in the 2019-2020 academic school year, the CHK World Languages program will incur a change in 7th and 8th grade. Instead of taking the same language for a semester in 7th and 8th grade, students will complete a semester of Spanish and a semester of Italian. We wanted to provide students the opportunity for additional exposure to both of the world languages that we are fortunate to offer at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School and collectively felt that one marking period in grade 6 was not enough.

Our program at the middle school is structured as introductory and exploratory, due to the semester gap organization. It is classified as "Partial Immersion", which is where 50% of class time is spent learning the language. The main focus of Partial Immersion is to teach students about the culture of the country whose language they are studying. In allowing students this opportunity, we provide greater flexibility in their language commitment at the high school level. Even with the current arrangement, we found that almost all of our students are still beginning language studies at level 1 (one) in high school, as is the case with the surrounding public schools, private schools, and Magnet/Vocational schools. Our language study sequence at Arthur L. Johnson is structured to ensure AP level pathways in either Junior or Senior year. Also, we offer placement exams, if students feel that they are interested in meeting the challenge of a more advanced level. We can report that we have students currently studying more than one language in high school, which is the common practice in European countries.

Finally, this decision was given great thought by all school administrators with input from the world languages staff based on professional knowledge of the grades 6-12 program, and how it leads into college-level work. The recommended change was also vetted with and approved by the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education with the best interest of all of our students in mind.

Sincerely,

Edward Grande
Superintendent, Clark Public Schools

Rick Delmonaco
Principal, Carl H. Kumpf Middle School

Yuri Diaz
Humanities Supervisor, Clark Public Schools