

# Bilingual, ESL, World Language Department Newsletter



Cycle 1 2022

September and October have been a busy time in the department. Students and teachers have settled in to their classrooms. Every school has opened their doors having different events. Florence Avenue had a Hispanic heritage celebration.



The Community Outreach Committee celebrating at the multi cultural event.

## Community Outreach

On October 15 at Irvington High School, the department held its first annual Multicultural Fair. It was a smashing success! The event featured various cultural performances, student art work, bounce houses, even a petting zoo. The Ghana drum circle and samba dancing had everyone on their feet! Several local restaurants provided food that represent the cultural diversity of our community. They served delicious **tacos**, **acra**, and **pupusas**. The Irvington Education Association created prize baskets for lucky raffle winners. The student presentations from Chancellor, Mount Vernon, and Augusta Schools were phenomenal. Participants also enjoyed the caricature artist who drew funny pictures of students, families, and staff. Thank you to all the staff, security, and families that made this event a success.

Drum Circle at the multi cultural event.



Dr. Ruiz congratulates a raffle winner at the multi cultural event.

**“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”**  
— Ludwig Wittgenstein



## Tech Corner

### Engaging content for diverse student populations

The goal of Newsela is to bring meaningful classroom learning for every student. Newsela is a literacy-focused platform that brings the world inside the classroom. Newsela provides instructional support to expand students' learning experience and engagement in the areas of ELA, Science, Social Studies, Health, and Social Emotional Learning. All content provided on Newsela is aligned with NJSLs. Ask your scholar about Newsela today.

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<https://irvington.k12.nj.us/curriculum/bilingual-esl-world-language/>

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## A word from Dr. Ruiz

### Did you know?

You may be surprised to learn that ELs in U.S. public schools speak over 400 different languages. In 2022 there were an estimated five million ELs enrolled in US schools. Although data collection is incomplete in many states, the vast majority have seen an increase in EL enrollment in the last few years.

I am excited about the programs that our department has created. At Irvington High School we have an International Club and after school enrichment program. We also had over 40 seniors graduate with the seal of New Jersey and Global Seal of Biliteracy. We are also excited to implement our K-5 Newcomer Program at Berkeley Terrace Elementary School to help transition students into our elementary schools. Our staff is working hard to teach and inspire our students on students We have many achievements to be proud of.

## Hispanic Heritage Month



Ms. Alves, ESL Teacher from Berkeley Terrace celebrating cultures.

Approximately 57% of Florence Avenue Elementary School students are of Hispanic origin. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, the staff implemented a series of activities throughout the school, including daily announcements regarding Hispanic cultures, traditions, and famous Hispanic leaders. The month-long events culminated in our Hispanic Heritage Celebration on October 7th from 4 PM to 6 PM, with entertainment, arts and crafts, and good food. Many community members attended the event, which contributed to its success.

## After School Program

Irvington Public Schools is once again offering an ESL After School Enrichment program and it is well underway. The purpose of this program is to give language learning students opportunities to build a command of the English language in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening as well as increase their confidence which will be applied to their regular school day. The environment for the enrichment programs is safe and low-risk amongst their peers with similar language needs. After School Enrichment is more than simply helping our scholars with homework, it makes learning more fun while complementing the expectations of a normal school day.



Ms. Biho, an AfterSchool Enrichment Teacher, from Mount Vernon School working with students grades 1-2

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## TIE DYE

### Chemistry Meets Art and Fashion

Ms. Sciusco, Bilingual Teaching Assistant and Ms. Ihuoma, Science Teacher, created a tie dye experiment in their classroom to celebrate world chemistry day. This chemistry project was amazing. All of the students were eager to participate. The project was completed mainly by sophomores at Irvington High School. The class was discussing chemical reactions as a way to bring chemistry alive they tie dyed shirts. Initially, the students teamed up with another class to watch a video on chemical reactions and then the teachers followed through with the experiment.

Tie dye coloring works due to a special type of chemical reaction between an acid and a base. Upon the completion of the experiment, the students now have new dyed clothing by chemically bonding dye molecules with the clothing fabric molecules. We had two types of examples, polyester and cotton. As the students experimented they realized that polyester can be tie dyed, but it does not absorb color nearly as well as cotton. Because of this, creating vibrant tie dye color combos is nearly impossible on polyester. The classroom was filled with laughter and educational conversations. What a wonderful experience for the students involved.



Ms. Ihuoma, Science Teacher from Irvington High School experiments with tie dying.