

World Language (WL) Updated Program Request & Rationale

Since our very preliminary World Language budget requests and rationales were presented at the January 4, 2016, Board of Education meeting, we have had time to further process each proposal with staff. In the intervening weeks we have also learned new information that has caused us to rethink our original request and to now present an updated version with the following proposed changes.

1. Withdraw the 0.3 increase in elementary WL staff
2. Add 1.0 WL staff to offer 6th grade WL every day, second semester
3. Add 1.0 Mandarin teacher, **if a minimum of 48 sixth graders enroll (12 per house)**

Personnel and Budget Impact Summary

Elementary:	-0.3
Middle School	+2.0
High School	<u>-0.4</u>
Total	+1.3 FTE

Elementary World Language: Staffing Request 0.3 FTE is withdrawn

The original request for a 0.3 increase in Elementary WL staff was to support a scheduling change that would provide one long class period of 30 minutes and three shorter periods of 15 minutes each. Such a change would have given students four WL learning experiences over a six day cycle. After further consideration and consultation with staff, it was determined that this proposal creates other issues in terms of delivery of curriculum which outweigh the addition of time in shorter increments.

Middle School 6th Grade World Language: Staffing Request 2.0 FTE

Part One Proposal: Building the Instructional Infrastructure 1.0 FTE

The addition of 1.0 FTE to MS WL staffing for 2016-2017 would help build the infrastructure needed to bolster the 6th grade WL program by providing more instructional time for all languages offered. Specifically, WL would go from meeting every other day all year to meeting every other day, during the first semester, followed by every day the second semester. Classes that now meet 90 times per year would meet 135 times next year.

Rationale:

The goal of Scarsdale's World Language Program is to maximize our students' ability to function in the target language, especially their aural/oral (listening and speaking) proficiency. The additional number of class periods in the second semester will provide more time for students to practice listening, speaking, and writing in the target language, without adding additional new content. Because the added time will be for practice and skill reinforcement and not new content, students who need Team Academic Support (TAS) for the whole year, could continue with TAS in the second semester and not miss core WL content. These students could still make their decision about taking WL every day in Grades 7 and 8 at the end of 6th grade.

During the second semester of 6th grade, students who do not need TAS would have additional time to practice listening, speaking and writing in the target language rather than Sustained Silent Reading (SSR).

Part Two Proposal: Add Mandarin Teacher, minimum of 48 students, 1.0 FTE

Rationale:

Two “game changing” events have led us to potentially rethink our stance on offering Mandarin at the MS starting in the 2016-2017 school year.

- (1) Our Elementary and Middle School WL Coordinator announced her retirement last week. Her strong leadership and relationships with staff is crucial in laying the groundwork for changes to our program. If we have sufficient enrollment for 6th grade Mandarin to start in 2016-2017, it would be in our best interest to take advantage of her expertise and make the change now rather than wait a year. While we recognize that this is not ideal, it would be less ideal to have new Coordinator attempt to do this work without any context or experience.
- (2) We were able to get agreement, earlier than anticipated, to bolster the infrastructure of the 6th grade WL program as described in Proposal 1 above. We originally thought this infrastructure change would need to be delayed another year; however, strong leadership of the coordinator and support of the the MS administration, has accelerated this process..

The unknown factor related to Proposal Two is how many rising 5th graders will actually sign up for Mandarin in Grade 6. We remain committed to the notion that the implementation of this program is predicated on student interest and commitment to this program; therefore, we need to get a firm number of Mandarin students from the MS survey that will go out to current 5th grade parents at the end of next week (February 4). We believe that 48 students should be the absolute minimum number, thus creating four sections of 12 students. If these numbers materialize, we will formally make this request to the BOE at the next regular meeting. If we do have the numbers to support this program, we will continue to study the viability of adding Mandarin, but proceed with Proposal One, only.

High School World Language: Reduce WL Staffing by 0.4

French sections can be consolidated to reduce staffing in 2016-2017