

METUCHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORLD LANGUAGE TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT



February 12, 2013

WORLD LANGUAGE TASK FORCE

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Comparison Data: Elementary



12 Districts Surveyed with a DFG of G-H, I, or J Grades K-2:

- *8 of the 12 districts have no formal world language instruction in place*
 - * ***4 districts have inclusion or informal instruction***
- ## ***Grades 3-5:***
- *3 districts have an informal or inclusion program that includes CDs or computer programs*
 - * ***5 districts have world language once per week***
 - *4 districts provide no formal world language instruction*



Comparison Data: Campbell



Elementary Program

K-2: Spanish Inclusion

Materials available on district server

Grades 3-5:



Spanish Instruction once a week



Comparison Data: Middle Schools

12 Districts Surveyed with a DFG of G-H, I or J

Grade 6:

**** 6 districts instruct World Language as a cycle program***

Grade 7:

• 7 districts instruct World Language as a full year program

Grade 8:

**** 7 districts instruct World Language as a full year program***

Grades 6-8:

- 1 district instructs Spanish or French on a block A-B schedule***
- 1 district instructs World Language as a level 1 course over 3 years***
- 2 districts instruct World Language a few times per week***





Comparison Data: Edgar Middle School

Grade 5:

Spanish Instruction Once per Week

Grades 6-7:

Spanish is a semester course taught on
alternating cycles

Grade 8:

Spanish, French or German/ Full Year





Comparison Data: High School

12 Districts Surveyed with a DFG of G-H, I or J

- * All 12 districts offer Spanish on multiple levels***
- * 11 of the 12 districts offer Spanish & French on multiple levels***
- * 5 of the 12 districts offer German at multiple levels***
 - 7 districts offer Latin*
 - 7 districts offer Chinese*
 - 4 districts offer Italian*
 - 1 district offers Hindi*
 - 8 districts offer AP Spanish Language*
- * 3 districts offer AP Spanish Literature & Culture***
 - One district offers Independent Study for Korean*
 - VHS was not discernible for any districts for World Language*
- Of the 5 districts with enrollments under 1,000 students/
all offered only 2 main languages***





Comparison Data: Metuchen High School

The World Language Program at Metuchen High School : (642 students)

- Spanish, French and German: Levels 1-5
- Spanish Levels 1 & 2: In Class Support
- Spanish Communications and Cultures 1 & 2
- Spanish, French: Levels 4 & 5 Honors
- Spanish Level 4 Honors
- Spanish Communications 4/5
- Spanish 5 AP Literature & Culture
- Italian Independent Study: 40 students
- Virtual High School(VHS):
 - Latin 1 (2 students)
 - Latin 2 (1 student)
 - Mandarin Language and Culture (1 student)
 - Italian Language & Culture (1 student)



World Language & Virtual High School

Full Year Courses:

- *Latin 1 & 2*
- *French Language and Culture AP*
- *Spanish Language and Culture AP Language*
- *Portuguese 1*

Half Year Courses:

- *French Language and Culture*
- *German Language and Culture*
- *Italian Language and Culture*
- *Mandarin Language and Culture*
- *Russian Language and Culture*
- *Spanish Culture and 20th Century Hispanic Literature*





Parent/Community Survey/91



- *Almost 85% of parents taking the survey have/had children in the schools*
- *57% of respondents speak another language*
- *Most learned their other language in the home or at school*
- *Almost 20% of respondents use another language on the job*
- **** Spanish, German & French were the top languages listed for current or past job needs***
- *Spanish was listed as “Extremely Important” by the largest margin*
- **** After Spanish & French, German & Italian were listed most frequently***
- *Chinese & Arabic were listed as “Important “ languages*
- *Latin , Japanese, Russian & American Sign Language were listed as “Somewhat Important”*





Parent/Community Survey



- *AP designation was listed as “Extremely Important” by 37% of respondents*
- *“Honors” designation was listed as “Extremely Important” by 40% of respondents*
- ***A desire to travel was listed as the strongest motivator for 50% of respondents***
- *40.5 % of respondents would like students to study multiple languages*
- ***Job Opportunities was reported as the #1 gain from studying a world language (93.4%)***
- *95% of respondents studied a world language in school*
- *Personal Benefits from study of a world language were:*
 - *Broader view of the world*
 - *Interactions with people*
 - *Increased tolerance*
 - *Success in a global economy*
 - *Job opportunities*
 - *Improved test scores*
- *59% of respondents felt the Metuchen Community was represented by the current World Language Program*





Student Survey Results/192

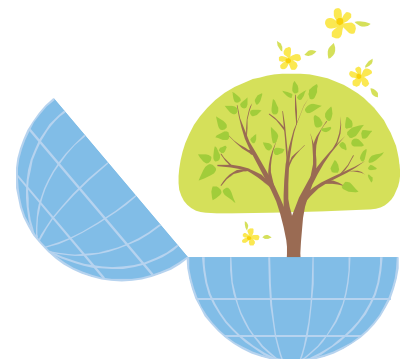
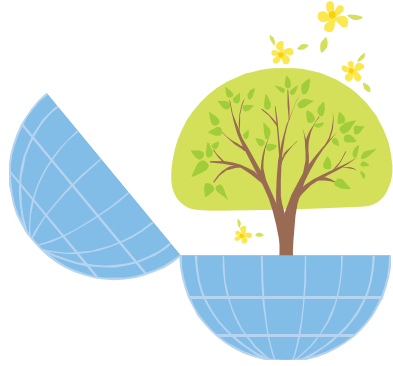


87% of respondents were in middle and high school

- *84% said they knew the offerings of the World Language Program*
- *52% said they speak another language*
- ***Top language spoken: Spanish, Chinese, French, Hindi, Slovak, German***
- ***Job opportunities was listed as the #1 reason for studying a language***
- *Speaking another language (as opposed to reading, or writing) was listed as the most important skill*
- ***Spanish was listed as “Extremely Important” by 66% of the students***
- ***French, German & Italian were listed as either “Somewhat Important” or “Important”***
- *Latin was listed as “Extremely Important” by 20% of respondents*
- ***“Desire to Travel” was listed as the #1 motivator for learning another language***
- ***The #1 perceived gain from learning another language is “Job Opportunities” (76%)***



Recommendations



- ***Add formal instruction of Spanish to 2nd grade classes (Times TBD)***
- ***Add to the VHS offerings as needed***
- ***Continue to offer Italian as an Independent Study Course that enriches language and student exposure to culture***
- ***Separate the Spanish 4 and Spanish 5 Communications Class into 2 levels (September, 2013)***
- ***Internal Audit of the Departmental Offerings (In Process/ 3 aspects of the department as a focus)***
- ***World Language Club at Campbell School (Meeting once per month in conjunction with parent/community members willing to share their culture)***
- ***Multi Cultural Club for Edgar Middle School***





Summary



- The World Language Program in the Metuchen Public Schools meets or exceeds offerings as compared to other districts
- Only 3 out of 13 high schools surveyed offer AP Spanish Literature & Culture
- Community/Student surveys listed Spanish as “Extremely Important”
- The World Language Department will continue to “raise the bar” for all students.



One Student's Experience

On a recent January morning, MHS graduate Safi Ali-Khan (2012) came to visit Dr. Rosann Kamin with a gift. He held a book in his hands and explained he had changed his major at New York University to Romance Languages. During the fall semester, he had a class called, "Spanish Poetry". Aside from reading Spanish poetry, the students had to write their own book of poems. Safi proudly handed his completed book of poems to Dr. Kamin. On opening the book, he had dedicated it to *Señora Rosann Kamin*. He told her how much she had influenced his life.



Questions?

