

Survey Results Survey #1: Parents of K-5 Students, October 5-9, 2015

Survey Purposes:

- To determine if adding additional languages to the middle school language offerings was important to parents
- To determine which languages parents would like to see added
- To determine the language choices by year, if Mandarin was offered

Current K-5 enrollment: 2101 students

Response Rate: 808 students (39%) were represented by 588 parents

Summary of responses:

Q. 1 How important is it to offer more world languages at Scarsdale Middle School? (**number of parent responses**)

Very Important	275	47%
Important	127	22%
Somewhat Important	84	14%
Not Important	79	13%
No Opinion	23	4%

Q. 2 If the District's world language offerings were expanded at the Middle School, which language would you like to see offered as your first choice? (**number of parent responses**)

Mandarin	327	55.6%
None	127	21.6%
Italian	43	7.3%
Hebrew	42	7.1%
Japanese	17	2.9%
Arabic	14	2.4%
Korean	8	1.4%
Urdu	7	1.2%
Cantonese	3	0.5%

Q. 3 If Mandarin was to be added as a world language option at the Middle School along with the current offerings of Spanish and French, please choose the one language you would like your child/children to study when they reach grade six? (**number of students**)

	<u>K</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
Spanish	78	69	60	75	75	83
Mandarin	49	39	44	45	39	37
French	18	19	18	23	15	22

Of the **588 parents** who responded, **327 parents** indicated that Mandarin was their first choice for world language study at the middle school.

135 parents (23%) responded that their children currently study Mandarin outside of school. This represents **41.3% of the parents** who chose Mandarin as their first choice.

Survey #1: Comments from Parents of K-5 Students, October 5-9, 2015

Is there any other input, which you would like to tell us regarding the addition of other World Language offerings at Scarsdale Middle School?

Students should be able to opt out of a world language in middle school if they are taking language classes at an accredited program outside of school.

I think there should be more effort put in to doing a better job teaching Spanish at Greenacres. Many Greenacres kids feel like they have to switch languages once they enter middle school since they don't know any spanish and the kids from the other elementary schools do. Mandarin should not replace spanish. It could be offered after school for those interested.

Offer language option for after school club/extracurriculum would be another option.
In addition, the levels of language would be very different by children, split student by levels would be beneficial to the language study.

Perhaps Latin in the middle school to strengthen vocabulary skills by understanding Latin roots.

I don't think another language at all necessary and too expensive

German

There should be an ability for children to take more than one language in middle school.

Also, although I put Japanese and Italian as possible language offerings, I feel that German and Russian should be offered.

Would like Latin to be offered.

Spanish is the most useful language, by far, in NYC & the USA. Mandarin is second globally.

Believe Spanish and french are enough. Spanish is second language and widely spoken. Children should learn and master spanish

English, Spanish, and Mandarin are all you need in this century. All others are boutique endeavors. Nice to learn and speak, but not vital.

If a third option was available, I would want to see Latin added to help promote vocabulary building. It would also be interesting to have 6th graders get a sampling of 2 different languages. For example, 1/2 the year of one language and 1/2 a year of the other). The students would be exposed to 2 languages. Then, students could choose a language for 7th grade. Currently, students are exposed to

Spanish and then have to choose without having any exposure to French. Personally, I think 2 languages in the middle school is sufficient.
There is no reason that Spanish was taken away from the 1st graders this year. Absolutely wrong to not start any language till 2nd grade. Every study out there shows how important language study is for brain development and how starting as young as possible is best. Scarsdale is an amazing school system with a huge flaw in it that we don't emphasize language study.
Please start Mandarin. You should have started it in elementary school. I'm surprised that this school district doesn't realize the benefits of learning the language spoken by over 1 billion people and used in almost every cross-border business transaction. I'm also surprised that this school district which touts its "Center of Innovation" and "excellence" doesn't organize itself to maximize a child's potential during the time period in a child's development when MOST learning (highest absorptive time in a human being's life) takes place from age zero to age seven. Children really should be given this opportunity to learn Mandarin from elementary school onwards. Please get on the ball with this! Thank you!
We think it is very important to increase the quality and depth of the foreign language experience in Spanish and it French at the K-5 level. The Spanish offered currently at K-5 is minimal. I think this is a priority over offering a large sampling of additional languages. We would not be interested in Mandarin at the elementary or Middle school level.
They should learn the relevant second and third languages for US citizens: Spanish and Mandarin. All other languages are very nice from an aesthetic point of view, but useless in today's world. I am a fluent french speaker, I love it, but it is utterly useless in life. Today's languages are English, Spanish and Mandarin. Period.
Also interested in Latin.
My husband and I stand ready to volunteer in whatever capacity to expand language choice in Scarsdale from elementary all the way to high school. Thanks for sending out the survey. Regards, Kirkendall-Rodriguez
German must be offered in addition to Spanish and French. It is my first choice, beating all options your have proposed. Please add it to the lineup. German fluency opens exceptional educational opportunities in science and engineering fields, and is very useful in high-tech industries.
Students should not be confined to studying one foreign language. Those able to learn multiple languages must be given opt-in opportunities to study multiple languages as soon as possible. Ample research shows that starting early - way before middle school - is highly beneficial for learning.
We would gladly put our children in German language classes.
Russian
Languages should be offered only based on their importance to world economy
More important than adding another language would be to change the curriculum and/or hire a new Spanish teacher at Greenacres. I am trying to teach my daughter Spanish at home to prepare her for SMS. She has learned embarrassingly little Spanish from the Greenacres teacher, but she has watched countless videos and done way too many word searches. She loves school but completely dislikes Spanish, as do most of her classmates. Why turn kids off to foreign language at such a young age?
I think that mandarin would be a great third choice in this day and age. The other options above are not that important.
Please offer Russian.
Latin?
If another language is going to be offered, Latin should be considered
Latin?
If the district has budget concerns, my ranking would be Spanish, Mandarin, Latin and French.
You can't please everyone! Good luck! I still think Spanish is most useful day-to-day if you live and work in the United States. Thanks!
In my opinion, the sooner the kids are exposed to a language, the higher are the chances for them to learn it better. To extent possible, it would also be great to differentiate the level of teaching based on kids knowledge or ability. Presently, in Elementary School, all

<p>kids are in the same language class - whether they are native Spanish speakers, have a decent background, or are (still) complete beginners. As a result, their advances are rather limited. Another option to help develop language would be to bring enthusiastic parents, who can help with fairs, trips, and just day-to-day language acquisition by making it more fun and engaging. The options you listed somehow omit German, which is another useful language. I would certainly put it ahead of Italian.</p>
<p>American schools do not teach foreign languages well, and unfortunately that includes Scarsdale. True fluency will never be achieved if one begins to learn a language in high school. Adding Mandarin in Middle School is the LEAST that we can do to remedy this. It is a step in the right direction. Ultimately students should be studying a language daily beginning in K or 1 - really learning conversational skills, not just singing songs and memorizing nouns. Spanish and French are important and lovely languages, but our kids should also be offered Mandarin and Arabic so that they may one day be competitive in a global job market.</p>
<p>When there are a couple children (now for example in Kindergarten 3, Second 4) children learn the language Dutch in the middle school time it would be great..... I'm a teacher and would love to do it in the middle time school time</p>
<p>We believe learning foreign languages (multiple!) are crucial to a child's development, and should be part of the curriculum in elementary, middle and high school. Very happy that Spanish is offered in elementary and the time spent on it could be expanded. In middle/high school, it would be great if students can choose between various languages - e.g., Spanish, French, Mandarin, German, Latin and (ancient) Greek (in particular the addition of Latin to other 'living' languages would have our interest).</p>
<p>German should be an option. That would have been my first choice.</p>
<p>I would like to see more Spanish given in Elementary than twice per week. I am fine with two languages in the middle school.</p>
<p>Not at this time</p>
<p>Foreign languages should be taught by native speakers. If a child already speaks the languages being offered, teachers should make arrangements to help that child learn at a faster pace. My sons speak both French and Spanish and when I asked the Spanish teacher in elementary school if my oldest son could learn to read (instead of learning things he already knew), the answer was no. He had to follow the class's pace. It is a waste of children's time to teach a child to count in Spanish when Spanish is his mother tongue.</p>
<p>We strongly support teaching additional languages as early as possible, ideally in Kindergarten.</p>
<p>Yes--please offer different levels for the students at middle school, in particular with Spanish, the most common foreign language. My kids take both Mandarin and Spanish classes outside of school and have been doing so since 2 years of age. I would love to see Mandarin offered in middle school, mostly because it is such an important world language. That being said, I would not enroll my kids in it because their level would be too high for such a class (they learned Mandarin before English, although English is now dominant, and have been learning reading and writing since age 5 at a Sunday Chinese school). Also, my kids have been taking Spanish since 2 and 3 years old, in immersion programs. I really would like a program that would cater to their level. I can't expect that with Chinese because you would be starting a new program. Right now, I feel conflicted on whether I would let them stay in Spanish in middle school because they have invested so much time in it already and will likely be more advanced than the majority of their peers. Yet the biggest pity for me would be for them to not continue improving on their investment in language skills. It will also get continuously harder to invest out of school time in foreign language skills for our family as the kids' other extracurricular activities increase. Therefore, I would propose more levels for Spanish in middle school, and I also support adding Mandarin to the curriculum. Thank you.</p>
<p>Our children speak Spanish at home and take native Spanish classes outside of school. There are a number of native speakers in Scarsdale who would benefit from the academic side (e.g. grammar and literature) of an advanced class. Having bored native speakers in the same class creates disruption for the rest of the class (currently the case in elementary school). Absence a native Spanish class, the current middle school options limit these kids to French only, so it would be good to have an additional option. German was not included in the drop down list of alternatives to suggest. Thanks for running this survey.</p>
<p>I would like to see Russian as an option</p>
<p>I find it a shame that it cannot start earlier in the academic grades; studies have shown that earlier exposure to secondary languages are so beneficial to children</p>
<p>Cantonese is definitely not a world language. It is a dialect. This is a very basic fact. I am surprised that whoever designed this survey didn't know this.</p>

<p>Having only 2 Romance languages is not sufficient for the Scarsdale school district when even small NYC public schools offer 3 languages. With globalization, having students learning a language that is not Western European based would help them become the global citizens Scarsdadians want their children to be. So much business is being done with China that having knowledge of Mandarin and an understanding of the customs would help our children better prepare for life after college graduation.</p>
<p>I am currently a Spanish teacher at SMS.</p>
<p>I am against offering Mandarin. it is a waste of district funds. Those who are interested in mandarin know it already outside of the school program. My children know other foreign language and are almost fluent in it, but we are not pushing our language on the community.</p>
<p>I think it's essential that teachers are native speakers if we want the kids to learn the correct pronunciation and accent.</p>
<p>I would like to see Latin offered as a choice.</p>
<p>Strongly support adding Chinese as US-China relation is the most important bilateral and global relationship in the 21st century. Chinese is also spoken by one-fifth of the world population. It's a strategic language that everyone needs to learn in the US.</p>
<p>Mandarin is an incredibly important language to understand and to speak in a modern business and political world.</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>Hindi</p>
<p>The only language that would interest my family besides French would be Latin.</p>
<p>You hired people for Spanish in Elementary grades less than 10 years ago, have already cut back their hours, and are planning on doing it again next year. You have no plan. These are people you are dealing with. First secure Spanish long term before starting anything new.</p>
<p>My child already speaks Spanish at home as his first language, which I think is a very important language to know living in the US. Based on this, I would be choosing a language different from Spanish and I believe Mandarin would be more useful due to the amount of people worldwide who speak Mandarin vs French.</p>
<p>Latin and Greek are foundational languages for English and Romance-language speakers. Our family believes these two languages would be more helpful to our students than most of the languages listed. For example, many of the languages listed are likely already spoken by some segment of the Scarsdale population. But Latin and Greek are classics that will not be taught in other settings. In addition, we're surprised to see Korean listed rather than German or Russian.</p>
<p>Latin</p>
<p>No, but we are very disappointed that Spanish was eliminated in the earlier grades in the elementary school. We feel as though MORE emphasis should have been placed on it as part of the elementary school curriculum -- not less (i.e., none in the early grades). In order for kids to actually pick up the language in any meaningful sense, they have to have more exposure to it than they're given.</p>
<p>No, just that I think we really should be teaching languages much more intensely at an earlier age.</p>
<p>Kids whose second language is Spanish should be taking a higher level. My kids find it unfair to their classmates and boring to them</p>
<p>Given the current global economy dependence on China, Mandarin is definitely one of the important world languages.</p>
<p>The introduction of any language at an early age enables children to learn that language with much greater facility. Offering Mandarin in the middle school is a logical step in maintaining Scarsdale's reputation for excellence in educating tomorrow's global leaders. We must be sure to evolve our curriculum offerings to keep with the times.</p>
<p>I am disappointed to say that I have found the Board of Ed's reception of the idea of Mandarin at SMS to be tepid at best. This survey is a step in the right direction and I am glad to see it.</p>
<p>If you are not going to offer Mandarin in the elementary school then what is the point in introducing it in 6th grade? It seems to me that the interest in adding Mandarin in the middle school is coming from the parents with this cultural background. If it is added I will not be persuaded to have my child take Mandarin since he was not introduced to it at an earlier age. I think he would be at a disadvantage in a class with children who have parents who may speak Mandarin at home and have been exposed to the language.</p>
<p>Would like mandarin to start in 3rd grade.</p>

<p>Languages should be started and focused on much before middle school. The addition of a reading specialist in place of Spanish for first graders was a terrible mistake.</p> <p>Children should be able to take two languages in middle school if desired vs having to choose one.</p>
<p>Studying a language is not just an academic exercise. The previous superintendent referred to the study of languages as academic. Languages are the way CULTURES communicate. There are many cultural aspects to learning a "foreign" language. I would only prefer my son to study French because a large number of my family members speak French - and we will go to France to visit with them. We also have some family members who speak Italian and live in Italy - and we plan on visiting them. We also focus on the cultural aspects of those countries, even from a distance. At least if our son learns French, he can use that language to work at the UN or at a Swiss bank. And we can support that language as a family, although we do have too many languages spoken to learn them all well. Very tricky subject. I learned three, myself, and many in my family spoke/speak four. I think only offering French and Spanish is a bit backward, although those are the languages spoken in North America and South America.... Tough to please everyone. English is still a VERY important language, to top it all off.</p>
<p>Consider adding Hindi</p>
<p>Would like to see foreign languages taught earlier than middle school.</p>
<p>We would like Russian offered.</p>
<p>I don't think French is a very useful language to offer. An analysis should be performed to see which languages are being spoken most and effort should be made to offer those choices. All choices offered should start from elementary till high school so that the language gets reinforced.</p>
<p>Coding or programming languages should be offered.</p>
<p>I would like to see Portuguese being offered as there are quite a number of Portuguese speaking households in Scarsdale as well.</p>
<p>I feel the greatest exposure children can get to another language at an early age, the better it is.</p>
<p>You didn't list Latin but I would like to see that as an offering.</p>
<p>My son is in 6th grade at SMS. If a new world language is offered in 2016 would it be offered to him in 7th grade and could he switch from Spanish to it?</p>
<p>Why isn't German an option?</p>
<p>I hope students can have the option to choose more than one world language. I really wish my children will have the opportunity to study Mandarin at school, but I'd like them to learn French as well.</p>
<p>I think that Latin would be a great option since it is the base of all of the Romance languages.</p>
<p>Any new language introduced should be taught in a way that doesn't require additional tutors outside of school as it is currently for Spanish and French. Need for tutors may put undue financial burden on parents.</p>
<p>Would not support any additional language at the expense of the existing choices/programs.</p>
<p>I think children should be taught all 3 languages during middle school. That's how it is done in Europe.</p>
<p>What I would like to have my children study is VERY different than what my child would like to study. Not ever child is going to want to take Mandarin, my 4th grader included. I blame myself for this b/c I introduced him to the language when he was 3 and apparently he was very good except for the fact that he did not understand it and by the time he was 5 he said forget it, it's too hard! I do believe in a third language option but I think we should be have an open mind as to what the third language option could be. I do not want my children to take TWO Romance languages, I would prefer a different language family as a second foreign language. I put down Korean, Hebrew and Arabic b/c they are all alphabetic systems, not Romance languages, and useful. Scarsdale is and has always been a very diverse community and language is an opportunity to showcase it.</p>
<p>Nope--thanks for the opportunity to contribute!</p>
<p>Yes. I think the Spanish is too easy. Maybe, instead of introducing a new language, the Spanish could be more advanced.</p>
<p>I would like to see Mandarin, or any other language options, but they need to be done well. The elementary school language program is very weak. My kids are in second grade and can't say much more than numbers and colors in Spanish. They can't form a sentence. So as much as I'd like to see new languages, I'd say don't bother if it's going to be run like the elementary school program. If it's going to be done well, then I'm all for it.</p>

<p>I am surprised that Latin isn't under consideration as a language offering. Although not currently spoken, Latin is extremely useful for vocabulary and as a basis for Romance languages. If it were offered, I'd sign my children up for it.</p>
<p>As you probably know, if you rank the languages by population, Mandarin and Spanish are number 1 and 2. French is 19th. If we want a modern foreign language program, we should definitely offer Mandarin.</p>
<p>I find it preferable for my child to continue studying Spanish (which he is already getting at Greenacres) and to get a real mastery of this language through middle school, rather than starting another language.</p>
<p>Hindi is the most spoken language of India, a growing economic power that shares the core values of democracy, individual freedom and secularism with the United States. Would have been nice to have Hindi offered as a choice.</p>
<p>Mandarin is the most useful language after English in the business world. To keep Scarsdale's high standard for education, mandarin should be included to benefit the students and better prepare them to be global citizens.</p>
<p>You have it on the mark. I have always envied people who speak other languages, looking around today's world it seems that Mandarin, Arabic and possibly Urdu/Hindi can cover another 2 billion of the world's population alongside the usual world languages of English, Spanish and French. Thanks.</p>
<p>I think the current choices are fine for my son because the real hurdle will be getting him interested in learning a language in general, but for others I think more choice is better than less, and offering a non-European language would give the students a more diverse choice</p>
<p>While I very much would like to see Mandarin offered, I wonder whether Spanish and French (as Romance languages) are helpful in acquiring deeper knowledge of English itself.</p>
<p>It might be helpful if the District could provide residents reference to studies about the efficacy of secondary languages (and which) towards in-depth English language acquisition.</p>
<p>I am also interested in getting more information regarding the curriculum should Mandarin be implemented in Middle School.</p>
<p>Approve Mandarin as a language option for Scarsdale Schools.</p>
<p>Would be great if offerings could be expanded at elementary level as well, especially for those with already spanish-english bilingual children. thanks</p>
<p>Arabic and Urdu, Really?</p>
<p>I wish for Hindi to be offered in schools here as there are quite a few Indians</p>
<p>Why not offer more than one language?</p>
<p>Mandarin is crucial to start at SMS. We are learning Mandarin outside school.</p>
<p>Being multilingual is an extreme advantage in a COMPETITIVE GLOBAL economy. Having to choose one language only is not enough. Our children should grow up learning, at a minimum, Spanish/Mandarin/French starting from Elementary school. Most foreign workers in the US speak at least 2-3 languages. Why are our children not exposed to the value of being multilingual when our world economy depends on cross-cultural and international business?</p>
<p>Moreover, the US is a land of immigrants. We are a multicultural society and yet our education curricula does not reflect or embrace this quality.</p>
<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>It's not on the list, but Latin can be helpful for learning roots of words and vocabulary.</p>
<p>Portuguese</p>
<p>I think one of the upcoming languages nowadays is Mandarin and it will be great if we can offer Mandarin at MS. Also Mandarin is offered at high school but not middle school? It seems to me that there is no continuity ...if you are learning Spanish or French till 8th grade whats the point of starting a new language in HS? I think that whatever languages are offered at elementary school should continue till High school and if there is a demand for Mandarin it should be offered. I certainly would welcome that change. Thank you.</p>

Asian is a very big potential career field for our kids future. My Mandarin speaking background helps me so much in my conversations with my clients. Scarsdale has very good educational exposure for European backgrounds and knowledge. Enhancing Asian background introduction will enhance our kids' international viewing.

Thank you so much for helping our school system!

NYC has very big Asian population. Knowing Mandarin will help our kids know more about their neighbors or family background. It also helps them service the community or their jobs better. In medical field, if the doctors or nurses can speak multiple languages, it will help so much to know the patients.

Thank you so much to keep improve our school system! Cheering for Scarsdale schools!

I am not familiar with all the options available for world languages in the high school but assume there is more than Fr, Sp and Mandarin?

I grew up and went to public school in Missouri, and we had the choice of French, Spanish, Latin or German starting in jr. high (7th gr). It isn't clear to me here what the tradeoffs are of expanding the World Lang. program in the MS, but assuming no budget changes, I believe a district like Scarsdale should offer more than just Fr or Sp in 6th grade. If anything, the world is much more accessible than when I grew up and the global economy favors those who can easily work in different regions.

I appreciate your taking the time to survey parents, and also hope that you consider globally what languages may of value (and not just lean towards adding one language b/c of a large local population).

I am not sure my kids would be interested in learning anything but spanish

Don't dilute resources for fleeting fads. The same popularity of Chinese today is what we saw with Japanese in the 1980's. Latin would be a better language to teach (as a foundation for English).

Immersion is the best way to learn a language. 1-2 x per week for an hour is a waste of time.

Being able to speak a World Language is a lifelong advantage, this is why we find it very important to learn it at an early age.
Thank you

I think adding languages like Mandarin, Urdu etc is tough. These are languages that you can only learn if you are truly immersed in them. What you will see is that the children who speak these languages at home are the ones who will participate.

Other than that, I would like to see more native speakers teach the languages.

if you are looking to spend money on the curriculum add more hands on stem work or add an art history course. also please drop the farce of a music (non-instrumental) program.

If there were a budget issue, then I would actually choose to replace French with Mandarin.

Teaching a second language to our kids is extremely important. i would like to see this program start at Kindergarten and continue as the kids move up. i would like the curriculum to be strong and really focuses on getting out kids fluent in whatever language they choose, and not just basic skills. Starting young is the key, i don't believe starting Mandarin in middle school will be effective. if we are going to introduce a new offering, we should consider introducing it earlier than later.

German

As a member of the group of moms urging our District to expand Mandarin from current High School offering only into the Middle School, I support the inclusion of Mandarin in MS curriculum whole heartedly! Our District is already fallen behind compared to neighboring school districts (White Plains, Larchmont, New Rochelle, New York City to name a few) in this area. It is time to put Scarsdale back on the map as we are renowned nation wide, and the world to a certain extent, as a District historically grounded in exceptionally high quality liberal art education!

I would like my child to be able to study 2 world languages in 6th grade and onwards, not just one. If Mandarin were available as a 2nd language, we would pick that.
Can you please add German to the list?
We would like to see offering of second language specifically Mandarin in middle school at the latest, but hopefully at an earlier age starting in elementary school. Thank you.
Should you decide to add additional languages, I hope that Spanish continues to be an alternative.
I am confused by this survey. It asks questions about languages in SMS in theory, but only asks about our children in k-5, not those currently or previously in SMS. I think before we add more languages, we should do a better job with the languages we currently offer k-5. Many of the teachers regularly make spelling and grammatical mistakes in elementary Spanish.
Latin - it helps people learn how to write better
We are Chinese Americans and we would very much like for our children to master Mandarine starting an early age. By the time our children reach Grade 6, their level of Chinese would surpass the Level 1 Mandarin offered at Grade 6 of Middle School. Our children would greatly benefit from studying Mandarin at a higher level at the Middle School. It would be very welcome if there are various entry levels for Mandarin offered at the Middle School that allow all Scarsdale students regardless their background to progress in their mandarin study at their appropriate levels.
Offering Mandarin has been standard practice in Mamaroneck Middle school and HS for years.
Mandarin is so important these days, not because I am Chinese.
Why weren't other languages included on the survey questions for "expanded language offerings" at SMS? If there was an "other" option, I might have chosen Russian, German or Portuguese as some of my additional choices. I believe Mandarin and Arabic to be important languages for the future, but not necessarily over these other languages not mentioned in this survey.
China is the now the largest trading partner of United States and will continue to grow. Learning Chinese at a young age will provide students a lifetime edge to succeed in the future economy. President Obama has recently urged a million americans to learn the Chinese language by 2020. Scarsdale has a well educated and successful Chinese population and we should leverage our resources to provide world class forward looking education to our students.
I selected Mandarin not for personal reasons but to serve as a introduction to the course at the high school.
Many chinese kids who have been to outside weekend chinese schools will be in advanced level in Mandarin when they reach middle school. If Middle school decides to open Mandarin class, I hope there will be advanced class (corresponding to 6th grade Mandarin level) for these group of kids.
Besides English, I think Spanish is the second important language in US. And it is not very important for kids to learn many languages, because as the technology improve, the phone will translate languages very easily in the future. It is very important for us to open some classes that may related to how to making translate easier in the future, like technology class.
Japanese
Top ten economies based on the criteria of GDP, current prices (US dollars) which is simply known as nominal GDP. The rankings differ if the same list is prepared using the GDP based on purchasing-power-parity (PPP). As a general rule, developed countries have a smaller gap between their nominal GDP (i.e., current prices) and GDP based on PPP, while the difference is greater in developing countries, which tend to have a higher GDP when valued on purchasing-power-parity basis. 1. United States 2. China
China is ranked #2. Learning to speak Chinese is a great way to give our children well prepared in the increasingly competitive business world.
Asian languages are much harder to pick up at later stages of language learning curve, thus instilling our pupils with early exposure to them is immensely beneficial.
more intensive training in 4th and 5th grade (at least 3 times per week) instead of once every 6 days K-5. seems so ineffective.

offer "trial" classes for a month in 4 or 5 so students can make an informed decision based on experience rather than picking one based on nothing other than parents choice.
Mandarin is becoming more and more important as the trading/cooperation and other business between China and USA grows over the years. It is already a most spoken language in the world, and I am expecting it will play a more important role in the future.
The current elementary school spanish program is inadequate. regardless of what language is offered in middle school, spanish or mandarin or whatever should be started in kindergarten!!!
Mandarin lessons seem to be just like kale - popular at the moment because everyone has decided its the key to some broader, higher aspiration (eternal health?), but not that great or fun to eat/learn.
I'm a fan of languages and of people learning many of them, but on the whole I think our curriculum is pretty aggressive and we should ease up on our kids a bit.
If you're going to add any language at all at SMS, I'd add Latin and leave it at that. I would even go so far as to say that Latin should be required for all 6th grade students, with Spanish and French moved to 7th and 8th only. Or go crazy, scratch Spanish in the elementary schools (the five years of Spanish classes that my 6th grade twins took taught them virtually nothing) and teach Latin for K-5.
Multiple level of language class should be offer and place children in a level based on his or her language level instead of grade
I think Latin would be a valuable option for students More importantly, though, I believe students need more class time in the languages we already offer if they are going to progress in foreign language.
It's critical for Scarsdale Middle School to expand the world language options in order to live up to the district's reputation and attract families who values high-quality education. With surrounding districts and nearby private schools in competition, we cannot afford to overlook this important curriculum issue any longer.
Actually, which world language we will choose will depend on the level of the language class offered. We are Mandarin speaking family. We teach our children Mandarin at home. We also send them to Chinese school every weekends since kindergarten. They are advanced Mandarin speakers. What they need to be strengthened are reading and writing in Mandarin. If school can offer advanced Mandarin class for their level, we will definitely choose mandarin. However, if it was for beginner level, we may choose French...
Mandarin is a very important language and I want to give my children every opportunity to master this language and if possible have daily exposure.
I think you should offer Russian.
Thank you for the survey. We are also hoping to see Mandarin be added to elementary school's after school club curriculum.
Thank you.
No
Manderin has been offered at so many private and public schools all around. Some private schools even require is as second language.
Any other language from African Sub Region or Latin American such as Swahili, Portuguese etc.
Even though Daisy would continue her study of Spanish in elementary school, we believe she may be quite interested in learning Mandarin at SMS.
No.
I think it's critical to expand foreign language offerings and to do it as young as possible. I had much greater success learning a foreign language and acclimating to the grammar rules, idiomatic expressions and culture than in later years. I would like mandarin offered at the grade school level and Spanish and French offered starting in 1st grade.
N.A.

Not at this time
I have heard that Mandarin is a very difficult language. I wonder of introducing it early would make it more easier for children to grasp the concepts of the language so that it would be more accessible should they want to pursue it later on. I also heard that because it is picture based it appeals to younger children.
Your list of choices above omitted Hindi, the 2nd or 4th most language spoken in the world, depending on source. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_number_of_native_speakers http://www.vistawide.com/languages/top_30_languages.htm
As of today, the United States has the world's largest economy and China the second largest. The two countries are major trade partners and have become more and more intertwined as great numbers of Chinese and Americans have experience visiting, studying, working and living in the others' country. Learning Mandarin, the official Chinese language, from middle school or even elementary school as a foreign language for Scarsdale students can be very helpful for their future career. Through learning the language, the students will also have the chance to study about the country and its culture, which can be very important as being a global citizen and to understand the cooperative and mutual beneficial relationship between the US and China.
I think school subscriptions to Rosetta Stone would cost effective tools to teach additional languages
Our son is Dyslexic and really struggles with any language. We prefer that he not be REQUIRED to study any language other than English, but if an additional language is required, we prefer it be Spanish because we have Spanish speakers in our home. Our situation may be somewhat unique...but I answered based on our need and preferences. Thanks!
Latin would be a nice offering. Is that offered at the high school?
Please consider adding mandarin class of various levels to accommodate students with prior exposure to the language.
No other languages besides Spanish and French are needed at the middle school.
My daughter would take Hebrew if it was offered in 6th grade. She is currently in 5th.
I do believe aside from Mandarin being offered as a World language, Spanish should also be offered in light of the current dynamics of the world economy and cultural interaction. Thank you.
Maybe set up a dual language program for students
She's taking 1 st grade level mandarin at edgemont high school. Not sure how to integrate all the various levels as many there started at age 4. That would be a challenge. But offering mandarin in some form would be great exposure to all!
German would be a great addition.
Although I selected 'None of these. Current offerings are sufficient', that was not what I really meant, in that I'd like to see if anything, Latin offered at Middle school (I realise that is a classical language rather than what would maybe be considered 'World language'). Also would like to see either Russian or German on the list. Other than that, I am happy with current offerings.
No
It would be fun for the Jewish kids to be able to take Hebrew and or Yiddish:D
I don't understand how I was supposed to fill in the above chart but I have 2 children currently in grades 2 & 4. I would like them both to learn Spanish. My second choice would be mandarin (not French).
The most valuable addition would be some way to maintain their proficiency status during the summer rather than having it all fade away. Perhaps there are online language labs (written and oral?). I would think students out of the US might be a natural and low-cost counterpart.
The Spanish program at the Elementary level could benefit from a better methodology and could be encouraging more proficiency.

Would like to see mandarin and Hindi offered!
Hindi as another world language option.
Scarsdale school district should consider to offer Mandarin at elementary school. Due to the complexity nature of the language, it will be better to start the language at earliest possible.
Teachers should have the appropriate accent (ie native accent)
Russian Language
If a small group wants Mandarin, I suggest they get together and hire a tutor outside of school.
Additionally, I think this survey is very poorly worded.
The answer to "If the District's world language offerings were expanded at the Middle School, which language would you like to see offered as your first choice?" is presented as conditional, yet presents the option to say no additional language is necessary. This can lead to very misleading conclusions.
Could German be provided?
Could German be provided?
Current language offerings at middle school are sufficient, no need to raise your costs and our taxes.
My son learned some Mandarin last year in an immersion program and I wish he could continue it
We don't need more, we need better.
As a member of the group of moms urging our District to expand Mandarin from current High School offering only into the Middle School offering. I support the inclusion of Mandarin in MS curriculum fully! Our District is already fallen behind compared with neighboring school district (white plains, Larchmont, New Rochelle, NYC and etc) in this area. It is the time to put Scarsdale back on the table as we are renowned nation wide. Thank you!
It would be a wise and forward looking decision to offer maderin as early as possible given China's rising influence worldwide.
It will be great to set up different levels of Mandarin courses in the middle school.
You asked if the children are studying Latin outside the school, but did not make that an available choice for an expanded offering. I would have chosen that.
It is important to have the opportunity to choose.
I would be interested in seeing Russian being offered as a world language at the scarsdale middle school
I love the idea of having my child learning Mandarin at school. However, if the school would consider to offer an option of taking "Traditional Chinese" instead of Simplify Chinese. If the Mandarin class is going to teach Simplify Chinese only, I don't this this option will benefit my child, I would rather my child select another language.
Please offer Hindi. Thanks.
I would rather resources be put into other areas of education. Music & Arts & PE. Addition of another language is minimally important to me.
I THINK SPANISH WOULD BE A GREAT SECOND LANGUAGE TO BE ADDED AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOO.
It is important to introduce Mandarin as a second language.
Languages should be taught so they don't cause undue burden on families to hire supplemental tutoring outside of school.
I think additional language offerings are always an enrichment, as long as students keep up with their choices. Once the choice for the second language is made, it should be kept until the end of Middle School, in my opinion.
Spanish is meant to be the second language in the US and a third language with more variety of choice than just French could be great.

<p>It would be a wise and forward looking decision to offer maderin as early as possible given China's rising influence worldwide.</p>
<p>German - Far more relevant for global business today than many of the Asian choices which were our only choices in the drop down menus. It is in the top 5 economies today and will be in 2030 as well.</p>
<p>I feel that the Spanish at Greenacres is extremely weak and they are at a great disadvantage in middle school in compared to the other four elementary school. Since the new Spanish teacher came my kids have learned less and less Spanish than my older kids and a lot of their friends either drop foreign language since they are so behind or pick French since they feel they are starting new anyway. The supposed review in sixth grade is brand new information for them. Please bring us changes to Greenacres to make Spanish to the level of the other elementary schools.</p>
<p>The families pushing for Mandarin classes in the Middle School all already speak Mandarin fluently and attend Chinese school regularly. They are looking for an easy A for their child, to inflate their GPA, and NOT to actually learn anything from the class. No one who is not a fluent speaker will be able to enroll for these classes as they will not be able to compete with the native or first generation students. Please do NOT offer Mandarin in the school!</p>
<p>Spanish and Mandarin are two languages besides English used widely with large population. To prepare out kids for world-class citizen, we wish our kids have opportunity to learn these 2 languages earlier.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Focus more on math, the languages are alright</p>
<p>I would rather spend money on improving what the school system has than adding to it. Scarsdale parents in general are rich enough. If they want to teach their children mandarin, they can eliminate one of the 3 travel sports team they are currently participating in, and replace with mandarin. Pleaes don't burden the school system and taxes anymore. Spanish has already been removed from the schools for 1st. Please don't alter anymore.</p>
<p>I believe adding additional languages will dilute focus on excellent teaching of languages we already have in the system.</p>
<p>In the USA only English and Spanish are relevant languages. All the other ones are "nice to have" and non-essential. It's way more important to reach an exceptional level in English and Spanish than a mediocre level at best in any other language. There are too many different cultural backgrounds in Scarsdale and whatever language you offer would only benefit one of the groups, which will always be always be a very small fraction of the population. So therefore we think that if parents would like their children to learn other languages they should use their own money, NOT tax payer dollars. It is also inconceivable to us that taxes would have to be raised to fund somebody else's wish list.</p>
<p>My child is actually in private school now. She completed the 5th grade at Greenacres last year. A major reason why she no longer attends Scarsdale Schools is because of the importance to our family of having her begin to learn Mandarin in a dedicated manner (not only on weekends or at night) at an earlier age than high school. Mandarin is a language that is difficult to learn after the younger years. It takes years longer than for a romance language to become fluent in Mandarin for those of non-Mandarin speaking families. Ideally, children should be exposed to Mandarin prior to age 7 so that the ear can acclimate to the tonal nature of this language. Given the spotty and inconsistent approach to Spanish at the elementary level in Scarsdale (i.e. the poor instruction at Greenacres which is well documented by the District and known by all parents in that school), it might even make sense to replace Spanish with Mandarin in elementary school with the goal of training the young ear to listen and hear. Further, the actual writing of Mandarin uses a different side of the brain that the speaking of the language (left vs. right (or perhaps it is the other way)) which makes this language much different than romance languages which use only one side of the brain. Additionally, I would also like to see Latin offered in some form. Latin provides an excellent foundation for English and many other languages. It would augment both the study of some second languages while simultaneously improving English vocabulary and comprehension. Latin is important to many fields such as law, science and medicine. Although my child no longer attends Scarsdale and would be unlikely to benefit from an addition to the Middle School curriculum 2 or 3 years from now, we would definitely support the addition of languages - particularly Mandarin and Latin and will happily approve a budget with these items even if it is over the cap. A decision to add a language should not be predicated on having that magic number of 20 or 25 kids per section. In fact, the class size for languages should ideally be very low to provide the individual attention needed to truly master a foreign language. We are particularly concerned that the Scarsdale schools are at a competitive disadvantage both in terms of their language offerings and in terms of producing students with adequate language skills for the 21st century workplace, or even for adequate preparation for college. This should be a concern for all in the community, not just those with kids who may benefit years from now.</p>