

Survey Results Survey #2: Parents of K-11 Students, October 11-16, 2015

Survey purpose:

- To determine whether parents would like additional world languages added to the high school program
- To determine if parents were interested in their children enrolling in more than one language at a time in their high school program

Current K-11 enrollment: 4416

Response Rate: 423 parents responded representing 753 students = 17%

Summary of responses:

Q. 1 How important is it for Scarsdale High School to expand the World Language offerings beyond Spanish, French, Latin and Mandarin?

Not Important:	187 parents	(44.2%)
Somewhat Important:	117 parents	(27.6%)
Very Important:	99 parents	(23.4%)
No Opinion:	20 parents	(4.7%)

Q. 2 If the High School's World Language offerings were expanded, which language would you like to see offered as a first choice?

None of these*	157 parents	(37.1%)
Other:	57 parents	(13.4%)
Italian:	55 parents	(13%)
Arabic:	52 parents	(12.2%)
Hebrew:	34 parents	(8%)
Japanese:	33 parents	(7.8%)
Cantonese:	13 parents	(3%)
Korean:	12 parents	(2.8%)
Urdu:	10 parents	(2.3%)

*Current offerings are sufficient

Q. 3 It is possible to study more than one World Language at Scarsdale High School. Does your child plan to study more than one World Language at SHS?

	First Child	Second Child	Third Child	Total
Yes	145	98	24	267 (35.4%)
No	278	163	45	486 (64.5%)

Q. 4 If the World Language offerings were expanded, how many years of study would your child complete in the newly offered language?

	First Child	Second Child	Third Child	Total
Does not apply	269	118	32	419
one year	26	8	1	35
two years	31	9	4	44
three years	24	15	4	43
four or more years	73	52	12	137

Parents did not include all of their children when responding to this question.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us regarding the World Language offerings at Scarsdale High School?
Enough Already!!
Rather than offering more language classes the district could put the money to better use offering SAT classes which would help the less advantaged children attain better grades. Being a high achieving school district should not mean that the education has to be supplemented with tutors so that those grades can be achieved.
My oldest child is now a freshman in college. He was not eligible to take a language until 7th grade, when he started with French. In 9th grade he added Mandarin and in 11th grade he added Spanish. For four years he took two languages and for two years he took three languages. I am a huge proponent of taking multiple languages in the High School. It served my oldest child well. I have two kids entering the high school next year and they are both talking about taking a second language in 10th grade. I feel very lucky that we had multiple languages offered in our high school. Keep it up Scarsdale. Happy to participate in any discussions going forward.
I think if you made the SECOND foreign language a pass/fail class you'd have more interest. Sometimes the stress of their grade point average is what deters them (understandably) from doing it and that's really quite a shame. I had the opportunity to learn 3 languages in school K-12 (the 3rd one was a pass/fail class) and consider myself fluent. I have since learned 2 more but age made a big difference, I can "manage" in both of them, but unless I move to those countries and become immersed, I will never be as fluent as with the ones I learned in childhood.
Don't spread the existing resources too thin. Focus on the languages you offer now and do it well.
Instead of increasing the World Language offering at the high school level, it would be better to offer the current languages, specifically Mandarin, in the middle school level. Starting a language in high school is okay, but there would be significant advantage in starting a language earlier.
If at all possible, it is very important to have native speakers teach foreign languages starting in elementary through high school. It is also to have different levels in all grades. Otherwise students will not learn languages well.
My son is currently taking Spanish but also has some exposure to/knowledge of Mandarin. I wish it was easier to fit 2 languages into his schedule all 4 years of high school.
My younger son has been dying to really learn Hebrew - my other two are done - not really interested in languages - struggling through Spanish...
There are many opportunities to study language outside of school with tutors and special language schools. I believe this is sufficient. languages should be supported earlier in schooling.
Languages can be studied in different ways not necessarily through school curriculum.
Anil who is attending university of Chicago took 4 years of Spanish and mandarin. That was perfect for him.
There is a wealth of research showing that early start is highly beneficial for language acquisition.
Work with middle and elementary schools to introduce languages early, in a rigorous and systematic way. Cutting Spanish in elementary school is a mistake.
By the time the student reaches high school, s/he should be building their language skills on top of years of study. Starting a new foreign language as late as high school is not cost-efficient, and will be an uphill battle for an average learner. Learn from european educational system; start earlier.
I think Scarsdale covers all the languages truly needed in our changing world. But English is the language of the elite for a reason. It is the language of math science and business. Don't waste money on minor languages. Good luck.
I believe the languages offered are sufficient and even question the importance and impact of offering Madarin. I prefer my children to focus on the core educational requirements of math, reading, sciences, etc.

For Latin, combining students who are in their third year and students in their fourth year of student is not optimal. For Mandarin, combining students who speak Mandarin at home or attend a Chinese school with students who are just learning the language is not optimal.

I believe the World Languages offered now are sufficient. The only reason I wrote in Greek is for the benefit of a better understanding of the etymology & meaning of English words used in Math, Science, etc.

Ancient Greek

When I moved here 10 years ago I was shocked at the limited World Language choices. A district of this caliber should have more. At least Mandarin has been added, I hope to see the choices expand for future students who will be living in a global society.

A great effort. In today's global economy having a working knowledge of other languages opens doors and facilitates business. Numbers and foreseeable future trends favor Arabic, Urdu, Korean and Japanese in more or less that order.

The Spanish program is great. I do think an expansion of language opportunities would be useful for some kids. My own daughter would likely choose computer sciences or additional math, however.

not really necessary to modify world language, use that proposed money elsewhere where really needed.

Cantonese is NOT a language. It is merely a dialect of the Chinese (Mandarin) language.

would prefer resources go elsewhere

one of my children did want to take a second language but there was no room in the schedule

n/a

I think that there should be a stronger focus on basic English literacy, including writing essays and research papers, and that is a higher priority than expanding the world language offerings.

The existing Spanish and French program is very strong at SHS. Not too sure if Mandarin has been much of a success at SHS beyond a few students though there probably is a need to have Mandarin teaching. You could do a trial period for another language like Arabic, Korean or Italian to see if there is enough interest.

It would be good to expand offering Language choices. Even if they cannot be offered at the High school. Equivalent programs offered outside be considered for credits.

Example programs

SAFL is a program offered for learning Sanskrit as a foreign language.

Tamil is Offered by various institutions through an accredited program with California.

There are not enough resources to offer more languages, and it would only add more burden to the school's budget. The languages offered now are sufficient. Students who want additional offerings can do it outside of the school.

For kids to start learning world language(Mandarin), it is so important to begin when they are younger in elementary school and middle school. My kids would want to learn Mandarin but they can't start learning until high school which does not make any sense. We would strongly propose the district starting to offer Mandarin class from elementary and middle school. Thank you very much!

Appear sufficient.

The current school day at SHS makes it very difficult for a child to take a second language. If they decide to take a second language, which two of my children considered doing, they gave up almost all free periods, thus making it very complicated to meet with teachers. This issue is part of a larger issue in how the high school day is constructed. I hope that this issue will bring forth this larger issue to the Board of Education attention.

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The Spanish program is great. I do think an expansion of language opportunities would be useful for some kids. My own daughter would likely choose computer sciences or additional math, however.

I think the level that anyone can learn a language without being immersed is somewhat limited but it's good to be exposed to languages. However, we already pay such high taxes for our kids' education and I think breadth of choice can be a superficial

offering, it looks good, but do we need it and do we lose depth in the subjects already offered. I just think it's frivolous to add more languages. That's what college is for. If people want to pay for more education let them Get private lessons. I'd rather see improvements in the quality of what is already offered.

Many high schools and colleges offer Italian. My daughter, now in 2nd year is taking it at her college. It would have been great if Scarsdale High still offered the Italian language as it would have been helpful for my daughter. I really hope they bring it back to the HS. It is a language and culture loved by many. I

I think it is sufficient. If parents want their kids to learn other languages, they can afford to send them for private lessons.

The quality of instruction varies widely. The Advanced French offering is not interesting and redundant from year to year. More works of fiction and nonfiction should be read in non Honors courses. Less emphasis should be placed on rote memorization and more on analysis.

We have plenty of options. If parents want other language options they can arrange for instruction outside of school

Mandarin is the most useful business language after English. Many neighboring towns are offering mandarin already. Offering Mandarin in Scarsdale will help the students to be more worldly and ready as global citizens.

Italian was once offered in the school district and it was removed. I would remove Mandarin. Only a fe students study mandarin

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.

Kids who second language is one of the ones offerings should be at a higher leave than kids who don't know the language

I would remove Mandarin. I believe the language poses numerous challenges for a student to master , especially High School. I believe it is currently popular because of China's economic power. However, once or if China's economy implodes , interest will wane. The result will be similar to the 1980 's when Japanese was extremely popular until Japan's economy spiraled downward.

I think it's more important to strengthen the existing language programs - both in the high school and the middle school- rather than expanding.

i believe that there are many places that any additional money in the scarsdale system should be applied, prior to expanding the language program.

Mandarin should be offered in the Middle School, at the same time when French is offered. It is difficult for 9th graders to consider a new language, while it is much easier for 6th graders to pick up a new language. Since French is the only other option available in 6th grade, it has a significant advantage over Mandarin--which is offered when students are 3 years older and busier. Why should French have this advantage over Mandarin? If both languages were on an equal footing, the district will see how much more popular Mandarin is. Mandarin is the more spoken, more valuable and more useful language by far. The district needs to correct this disservice to students as soon as possible!

I think funds should be used in another way.

I believe that we have a full offering in this area. There are other areas of study that need expansion more. Also would like to see more emphasis in developing current curriculum and teacher aptitude rather than expanding into new areas.

It is good to have choices so the children can think outside of convention and explore ways to utilize their language skills. I also feel emphasis should be given to the spoken language in addition to the written as many leave high school with multiple years of language study but weak verbal skills and lack of confidence in their ability to converse

As the parent of a current 5th and 8th grader, I find it difficult to say with strong certainty how many years of foreign language instruction my children will complete in the future. I am unclear on the purpose/validity of this question. Is the purpose to gauge how committed parents would be to having their child study a certain language, given the associated resources/expenses involved? If so, the better question may be, if X language is offered, would you be willing to commit to a minimum number of instruction years.

Current offerings seem sufficient to me especially if a child can select more than one foreign language

No
<p>It must be started in early elementary grades</p> <p>It is not worth adding extra languages when we are not starting the languages at K level</p> <p>This is where the money should be spent ,</p> <p>In my opinion</p>
<p>I strongly feel that the languages offered are sufficient and that no additional tax dollars should be spent on new language programs outside the ones currently offered.</p>
<p>We have limited resources. I do not think language is the priority. I would rather see district expend more resources on technology. Those seeking expanded language offerings can pursue it privately.</p>
<p>We could work with Middlebury College as we broaden our offerings since their programs are so strong.</p>
<p>The current languages do not inspire all the students at SHS. More offerings would meet the needs of wants of more students. Mandarin is too hard for many children who are not Chinese to learn. Latin is also very challenging although I feel it's very valuable. Some more options like Hebrew and Italian would meet the needs of more children.</p>
<p>I would rather see the focus on languages start as early as possible, rather than later. Children pick up much more at an earlier age, prior to middle school. also we should focus on the quality of the program rather than expanding the program's offering.</p>
<p>Students should be taught to converse, rather than stressing reading and writing which is important but will not be used as much as conversation.</p>
<p>Note, my third child is graduating this year so extra languages would not benefit him.</p>
<p>I know it is touchy in Scarsdale, but German is a world language that is truly missing from Scarsdale. It is important for study of literature, music, medicine etc, and it opens up doors to other Germanic languages like Yiddish, Dutch, and Scandinavian languages.</p>
<p>I see no reason why interested students could not take 3 or more languages at SHS. That is what I did growing up. Perhaps this would be sensible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * English - all years * Spanish = A language - 1st - 12th. Spanish is so important now it cannot be ignored. It should be mandatory for all. And to start early is key. In my opinion, Spanish is currently a 'joke' in K - 5. It should be taught with much more rigor. Young kids are very good at learning foreign languages. Words should be sent home each week, and grammar should be studied. * B language, French, Spanish, Mandarin, German etc.- 6 - 12th, and * C language optional 9th - 12th.
<p>Students would truly benefit from speaking at least 2 languages very well.</p>
<p>The study of world languages is critical to our children's education and, I believe, to the future of our country. I would like to see more comprehensive world language study initiated in the elementary schools, though it is too late for my children. In addition, I would like to suggest an integrated study abroad program at the high school level. The current offerings feel a bit piece meal but unrelated to the students' course of study. My daughter went on the Australian exchange this summer, a valuable life experience unrelated to language study. Thank you for conducting this important survey,</p>
<p>I think there should be different levels of language courses. There should be beginners, Intermediate and advanced classes.</p>
<p>I am enthralled that there is consideration underway to add to foreign language options that are currently offered!</p>
<p>I am more concerned about the ability of language teachers to get our students enthusiastic about and engaged in learning a foreign language. My child who is in 12th grade elected to stop Spanish this year. She has not had a good experience with Spanish teachers, although she has received good grades. She said class is just boring. I think there needs to be more interactive ways to learn language. Regrettably, foreign language has not been a positive experience for either of my High School Students.</p>

<p>IF there's any chance for the ESL student to take French/Spanish, that will be great.</p>
<p>My daughters have benefited greatly from having started a world language in the elementary school. It has really aided my eldest in succeeding in the honors world language classes. We wanted them to focus on learning one language well and they are not interested in learning additional languages at this time.</p> <p>Thank you for surveying the parents.</p>
<p>I think adding ASL would be a great idea.</p>
<p>When my children entered the high school, I was ,honestly, surprised about the limited foreign language offerings. Scarsdale has a stellar reputation of providing a liberal arts, pre-collegiate program and that includes a variety of foreign language opportunities. When I went to high school, there were at least 7 foreign language offerings. At the time my oldest child entered the high school, he graduated in 2014, there were only 3 language offerings. Mandarin was just getting started and I thought the high school was lagging in this area. My children , like many others, have an aptitude for language and they should have an opportunity to study additional languages. My oldest child enrolled in the latin program al the high school and in college he is studying a third language.. Many students would benefit from the opportunity to study additional world languages in the high school.</p>
<p>I believe SHS should consider adding Hebrew as an option, especially given that more than half of families in Scarsdale are Jewish. In addition to being one of the most influential languages in the history of humanity and the official language of Israel, one of US' strongest allies and an important global center for technology and science, Hebrew is also very important part of the heritage and tradition of many Scarsdale families, and would provide a valuable base for the many Scarsdale children who will be preparing for their Bar-Mitzvah, planning to study or work in Israel at some point, or trying to maintain strong ties with their roots, religion and/or family and friends in Israel. I speak for mainly for my family, but I am confident this is the also the case for many of the other Jewish families in our district.</p>
<p>I don't think that Mandarin should be offered.</p>
<p>We would rather see the the current offerings with improved teaching.</p>
<p>It IS very important to start learning second or third languages in earlier years of life, to adapt correct pronunciation</p>
<p>I hope you will keep Latin.</p>
<p>If we are being honest, this is not a particular strength at Scarsdale. Would prefer higher quality than higher quantity.</p>
<p>More languages should be offered earlier in middle and elementary school. Westport schools already teach mandarin in elementary school because of the tonal differences. In high school it is too late to learn.</p>
<p>Drop French</p>
<p>I think is vital is that the Middle School teaches language every day; and that is key. If languages are not practiced every day, they are not effective. So thank you for that and I hope it is the same case at the high school.</p>
<p>You cannot be everything to everyone. It is not economically feasible to offer additional languages to meet the needs of special groups.</p>
<p>If they are that passionate about it they should seek resources outside the school system.</p>
<p>I feel the current number of world language offering is good. The problem is the level of the classes. It's important that the High School place students in the appropriate level to ensure their progress in the language and culture understanding. That's the only way to cultivate their world language interests and benefit their life/career in college and beyond.</p>
<p>the answer to this question "If the World Language offerings were expanded, how many years of study would your child#3 complete in the newly offered language?" depends on which language was added</p>
<p>I know that this is not what you are asking, but the elementary program in Spanish was useless in preparing my son to study language. For one, it never seemed like a program. Material seemed to be random. I had no idea how he was evaluated or what the goals were. In order for any new initiatives in language to be successful, you first have to look at their language foundations.</p>
<p>There are many opportunities to incorporate basics of language in the social studies and music curriculum from grade 1 onward and these should be explored</p>

I think other languages are very important to others - for us, we are fine with Spanish as it is extremely practical and useful in the US and beyond.
This is a great initiative; I hope it passes
I'm very glad that Mandarin is being offered at SHS.
The kids are so busy that they can't fit any more coursework into their schedules but they are so behind on computer languages compared to others applying to cal tech and MIT. They just don't have enough background in computers. I think exceptional kids have to do enrichment classes in order to be competitive for colleges They need to take computer languages and logic classes as well as intro to engineering in private enrichment classes. New Rochelle gets more kids into the top technical schools than Scarsdale because of the limited course offerings
Pleas leverage school subscription to Rosetta Stone in order to expand offerings.
Russian and Arabic are two of the six official UN languages (En, Fr, Sp, Ch, Ru, Ar)
Russian is widely spoken in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
Anything we can do to increase dialogue and understanding with Arab states is important.
Thanks
My daughter took Mandarin on her own in elementary school but it was too onerous to do out of school. I believe Mandarin should be an option in the elementary schools so that kids can take it when their ear is still developing. Had that been possible, I believe she would have continued with it.
Would rather see funds/resources dedicated to more creative ways of teaching math than to teaching additional languages. They can learn these in college if they wish.
I can't predict what my children will choose to do. Wish I could! Thus, I had difficulty answering these last two groups of questions. My elementary student has no plans, and if she did, they would likely change. I can say that I believe the offering is sufficient at SHS.
Intensive language training must begin at a very early age; current program is a joke to any international person;
A student should have the option to choose two languages other than English to study in high school, even early in elementary school.
I think the level that anyone can learn a language without being immersed is somewhat limited but it's good to be exposed to languages. However, we already pay such high taxes for our kids' education and I think breadth of choice can be a superficial offering, it looks good, but do we need it and do we lose depth in the subjects already offered. I just think it's frivolous to add more languages. That's what college is for. If people want to pay for more education let them Get private lessons. I'd rather see improvements in the quality of what is already offered.
No.
Hindi is significantly more prevalent than Urdu. Why is it not being offered? Borg languages are closely related and could even be taught together
I would like there to be more offerings in the earlier grades - beyond Spanish and French. For example, my younger daughter had Chinese in her kindergarten before we moved here. I would love to see an Asian language offered in elementary and middle school.
I view world language lessons should be chosen to reach wide participation. I think German should be part of the curriculum.
The current Spanish, French, Latin or Mandarin four language choices are good enough for my kids' studying. Too many choices can over warm the students' high school studying. They are busy enough with the current study, sports and social activities. The students should have enough time to discover their own favor fields before entering the college. They don't need to be good in all fields, but they should be excellent in one specific area, which can be further enhanced as their life driving.
I would like there to be language courses tailored for students who are studying Spanish or French who are interested in picking up the basics of the language they are not currently studying.

I love that the school has a global perspective, but I think the current offerings are sufficient. If a child is interested in other languages there are plenty of colleges that can offer those learnings.
Mandarin should be offered at as many levels (advanced, intermediate) as French or Spanish. Mandarin should also be expanded to earlier grade levels, such as 6th grade (middle school) or 4th grade (upper elementary school). Some other school districts are already offering Mandarin in middle schools.
I have four children. There was only room to answer which languages three of them take. My second does not, so I skipped her & included answers for the three who do study a language in school.
None
I would suggest that the school allocate funds to enrich current language programs and create a more effective learning environment rather than offer additional languages. Young adults who like languages will make an effort to learn additional languages in the future, if so inclined. It has been my experience that depth and not breath is more important and a strong foundation in a second language would be beneficial.
Nothing in particular to add about high school, but I'd like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the elementary school language program. I feel my high school junior was very well served by her early exposure to Spanish.
No
We would rather see the money spent on coding/computer science courses.
While it is certainly possible for children to learn more than one foreign language, it likely is better for most to attain deeper knowledge of one. My SHS student currently is in honors Spanish and will continue; she is considering taking Latin for a year to gain a historical perspective on language in general.
Rather than expanding the number of offerings, SHS should consider making the current offerings better. Currently, the regular level foreign language classes (Spanish & French, don't know about Mandarin) do not cover very much, and the honors level, which teaches in the effective, immersion style, is only open to students who get an A in middle school foreign language. No other SHS honors class that I'm aware of requires a grade that high to get into the honors class the next year. If there were more honors level sections, very capable A- and B+ students would be offered the opportunity to learn at a level (and in the effective style) commensurate with what the honors kids get.
Have you surveyed the students? What do they want?
It may also be a good idea to avoid jumping on the current trends of language learning where languages like Mandarin and Cantonese, although currently trendy, are not realistically acquired without many years of study.
It is impossible to answer how many years of study one might choose in a newly offered language without first knowing what the newly offered language is.
The level of the elementary Spanish was very poor. No textbooks. No structure. Kids could be bilingual at age 10 if thought well from beginning.
The last question is hard to answer as it depends on what the newly offered language would be.
I do not think Latin is a useful offering, and if those resources could be put toward a new language, I think that is a better use of resources. I would prioritize languages in this order: first priority is to languages spoken in several countries (English, Spanish, Arabic, etc.); second priority is given to languages in which the number of countries might be limited, but the number of people who speak it is vast (Urdu, Mandarin, Cantonese, etc.); last priority is given to languages spoken in only one country whose population is smaller than our own (Hebrew, Italian, etc.).
NA
I would be great to see teacher that are native to the languages that are being taught.
Scarsdale High School has been a role model for many programs across the country. Like many outstanding programs, we value our ability to teach our students to think expansively and outside the box. This is why we should be offering a language that provides for multiple benefits above and beyond what any other spoken language can offer at this time. Like any other important course offered at

Scarsdale, foreign language is an essential and vital part of a child's curriculum and should be made available to every child regardless of their ability or need.

Not only do many people learn ASL for the beauty of the language, Offering ASL allows Scarsdale to make foreign language accessible to all, regardless of learning styles whether they be visual or auditory. This allows a large number of people to benefit from learning a rich language that is based on a rich history and culture in ways that a spoken language will not allow.

ASL has also proven to be a very useful tool as one begins to consider possible careers including speech pathology, teaching in the area of special education, sign language interpreting , working in careers that are more visual-spatial such as art and graphics or teaching in environments where ASL is used as the main language just to name a few.

The benefits of ASL is widely recognized and is already offered for foreign language credit at many high schools and Universities across the country. For Scarsdale, offering this language as opposed to yet another spoken language not only widens the learning horizons for many students, it is what a top notch model program should be providing for all.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Expanding the language offerings at the high school is mandatory if our children are to be competent and competitive global citizens, and if our school system is to earn its accolades. Adding Mandarin and at least one other language at the middle school level is critical too. However, we need to fundamentally re-examine how we are teaching languages. In America, no one emerges from high school bilingual, no matter how impressive their school. But in other countries, even the store clerks, taxi drivers, and hotel bellhops are bilingual and trilingual. Scarsdale needs to implement a truly immersive language program beginning in K or 1. Singing songs in Spanish is insufficient.

This survey is confusing. I don't understand the purpose. Thought it was directed at whether we wanted Mandarin as a second language for SMS, but this survey didn't seem to serve that purpose. What's the purpose of adding Cantonese while even people in HK are speaking Mandarin.

comparing the importance of French, Spanish and Mandarin, it seems Mandarin comes first, not just because more people are speaking it, but also that it is a totally different language system that people can open up to a new horizon.

We would like the high school to continue offering Mandarin and also improve it. Thanks

This is an addendum to the comments I have already submitted with regard to the offering of American Sign Language (ASL):

ASL is also the third most widely used language in the United States. It is a visual and formal language that is completely separate and distinct from English. It contains all the fundamental features of language—it has its own rules for pronunciation, word order, and complex grammar.

I went to Horace Mann, which always offered German. Having lived and studied there, and as a leading global nation, it is imperative to offer it as a language option. It leads in industry and manufacturing, medicine and finance. There are many German speaking families in Fox Meadow and all of Scarsdale.

I would reduce the number of Latin courses. It's a dead language and only used to potentially help students with SAT and ACT test scores. I understand that the course offerings are similar to what's offered at our peer schools but it's not practical. Mandarin needs to start at the middle school. It's a complex language to learn and students don't want to start Mandarin in high school when they've already studied Spanish or French in the middle school.

Omit Spanish as the only choice in elementary school.

Scarsdale does not do enough about being "international". Lip service is paid in various clubs, etc. but my take is that the school is focused on the local rather than the international. Adding one more language is not going to change that. My daughter started French in elementary school, learned very little, but has continued due to family encouragement and summer study/homestay in France.

The current World Language offering at the SHS is sufficient.

However, I really would like to see Mandarin to be included in SMS curriculum. Our District is already fallen behind compared to neighboring school districts in this area. Since our district is historically known to be very strong on liberal art education, it is time to put Scarsdale back on the map again.

American sign Language is my first choice for an expanded program. It offers a unique opportunity for students to learn a non verbal language and and exposes them to another form of communication. I do feel the language dept needs a larger infusion of choices. Thank you.

Scarsdale school district should start introduce Mandarin from elementary school. Then officially have Mandarin as a choice in middle school (together with French and Spanish). Mandarin has been more and more important in our life and work. Scarsdale should be better prepared students in Mandarin.

I think the languages offered are sufficient. I would prefer to see offerings broadened at the MS and strengthened at the elementary level. I'd prefer to see Mandarin at the MS level as an option. The elementary level just is not enough time or quality to make a real impact.

You should offer Italian.

It is very important to us that French and Latin are offered on an ongoing basis.

Hello,

I suspect there is a mistake in this survey, as I think you meant "Mandarin" and not "Cantonese". There is a difference between the two, and I believe learning Mandarin would prove more useful than learning Cantonese.

As a professional interpreter, I believe students should be able to learn other languages than French and Spanish. I also believe those who already speak French and Spanish (like my oldest son, who is perfectly trilingual) should have the option to learn Spanish or French at a higher level.

I also believe that textbooks and teaching methods should be adapted and modernized. My son's French textbook (7th grade) uses French francs (instead of euros) and is almost 20 years old. Pictures show video tapes and cassettes/tapes instead of tablets and iphones. The characters in the book have old-fashioned French names.

I am sorry to say that I am not sure Latin is the best option. I learned Latin for 7 years, and everything I learned could be summarized in a few hours. I understand this is not necessarily a popular view !

Thank you for this wonderful initiative to expand language offerings.