

SCARSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
World Language Committee

Sixth Grade World Language Program
Summary of options
September 2010

October 2, 2009

Please find following a summary of the discussions for the possible program for the incoming sixth grade students to the Middle School for the academic year 2010-11. The scenarios are in the committee's order of preference from most advantageous to least advantageous.

Scenario 1: Offers the choice of French or Spanish to incoming sixth graders with a full five day per week program for the three years at the middle school

- This option offers the most educationally and philosophically sound choice for the advanced and continued study of World Languages from elementary through high school.
- This option promotes the Scarsdale Education for the Future, which is to prepare our students for effective participation in an interdependent world, to develop minds and spirits, and to inspire a love of learning.
- This option continues the foundation in Spanish beginning in the elementary school and adds French to the sixth grade program of study.
- This option significantly advances the curriculum in both French and Spanish covered by the end of eighth grade.
- This option provides for the future opportunity to add other world languages into the program of study in a more positive economic climate.
- This option facilitates the timing of house placement with the language program sustainability.
- This option requires four new staff positions in a difficult economic environment.

New Spanish grade 6, current grade 7 Spanish and grade 8 Spanish
New French grade 6, current grade 7 French and grade 8 French

Language	Days/week	Staff positions	Curriculum	Program costs
Gr 6 French	5	1 new	development	New texts/mat
Gr 6 Spanish	5	3 new	development	New texts/mat
Gr 7/8 /Fr/Sp Regular	5	8 current	In place	Usual/customary

Scenario 2: Offers the choice of French or Spanish to incoming sixth graders with every other day exposure to the world language followed by full five day per week program in seventh and eighth grade.

- This option is less educationally and philosophically desirable due to fewer contact hours in the language but more feasible in the current economic climate for the continued study of World Languages from the elementary through high school levels.
- This option advances the Scarsdale Education for the Future, which is to prepare our students for effective participation in an interdependent world, to develop minds and spirits, and to inspire a love of learning.
- This option continues the foundation in Spanish beginning in the elementary school and adds French to the program of study while facilitating the timing of house placement and program sustainability.
- This option advances the curriculum covered by the end of eighth grade in both languages.
- This option provides for the future opportunity to add other world languages to the program of study in a more positive economic climate.
- This option fits into the schedule with related arts callbacks and possible learning center assistance.
- This option provides optimal use of two new staff positions in a difficult economic environment.

New Spanish grade 6, current grade 7 Spanish and grade 8 Spanish
 New French grade 6, current grade 7 French and grade 8 French

Language	Days/week	Staff positions	Curriculum	Program costs
Gr6 New Fr/Sp	2	2 new staff positions	development	New texts/mat
Gr 7/8 / Fr/Sp Regular	5	8 current	In place	Usual/customary

Scenario 3: Offers no choice of French or Spanish to incoming sixth graders, continues the Elementary Spanish program in sixth grade, offers choice of French or Spanish language in seventh grade as current practice.

- This option would be the culmination year for the elementary Spanish study (grades 1-6).
- Students would choose French or Spanish in seventh grade.
- This option does not address the Scarsdale Education for the future as it limits the academic base that prepares our students to be effective and contributing members of an interdependent world.

Concerns expressed with this option:

- House placement is already set so the potential enrollment for French could be spread unevenly among the houses making it difficult to maintain healthy class sizes.
- The increased language skills for students in the elementary program are not elucidated in the seventh and eighth grade program.
- There would be less impact on the existing curriculum and on the students' depth of study in the language by the end of eighth grade.
- There is less return in program advancement for the investment of two staff positions.

Grade 6 FLES last year (1-6 curriculum)

Language	Days/week	Staff positions	Curriculum	Program costs
Grade 6 FLES	2	2	Development	New texts/mat
Gr 7/8 /Fr /Sp Regular	5	8	In place	Usual/customary

Scenario 4: Offers no language study in sixth grade with a year’s hiatus from the study of a world language, offers choice of French or Spanish language in seventh grade.

- There is no investment in the future and no advancement in the current programs.
- This is no philosophical or academic rationale for this option as it represents a regression in the goals of the program and of the district.
- This does not promote Scarsdale’s Education for the future.
- This is a response to the current economic environment.

Grade 6 No language offerings

Grade 7 Offering existing programs in French and Spanish

Language	Days/week	Teachers	Curriculum	Program costs
Grade 6				
Gr 7/8/Fr/Sp Regular	5	8	In place	Usual/customary