

## **Curriculum Changes in World Language and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing**

Beginning next fall third graders will receive World Language instruction not only in Latin, but in French, Mandarin, and Spanish as well. This new exploratory program will occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. Leading up to Spring Break, when third graders will be asked to choose a language for fourth through eighth grades, each third grade class will have six to seven weeks of instruction by our qualified French, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish teachers. The teachers will help the students try on each language by learning common phrases, as well as help them gain an understanding of how the language may benefit them in the future.

We believe this third grade exploratory program will yield two main benefits:

- 1) students will learn a little about all four languages and the cultures associated with each, and
- 2) students and parents should have a much better sense of which world language to choose for instruction in grades four through eight.

World Language instruction in fourth grade will occur on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week. The reduction in time from the current year will allow the World Language teachers to help third graders explore each language. Our fourth grade classroom teachers are pleased about their gained instructional time, because they have wanted more time for writing instruction. So, for an hour each week, fourth graders will use their NEO2s in a new, highly engaging writing program that we are developing.

Here is what our elementary World Language instruction will look like next year:

- **(No change) 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** – twice a week, 30-minute instruction in Latin
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** – 30-minute exploratory classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays for seven weeks in each of our world languages: French, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish. Students will complete an exploration of each language before Spring Break, at which time they will choose one for instruction in grades four through eight.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** – 30-minute classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the student's choice of French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish. (On Tuesdays and Thursdays students will use their NEO2s in our new writing program.)

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these changes, please contact Dr. Andy Henrikson, Executive Director of Student Learning, at 847-604-7440 or [ahenrikson@lfschools.net](mailto:ahenrikson@lfschools.net).