

Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth Graders,

Welcome to the Concord Middle School Foreign Language Department! As a sixth grader your child will have the option of studying French, Mandarin or Spanish. Our foreign language classes meet 3 times during the six day cycle in 6th grade. We offer a comprehensive program that addresses all aspects of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

We would like you to consider the following when selecting a language for study at the Middle School:

- Your child has the option to study French, Mandarin or Spanish.
- Your child will commit to study the same language all three years of Middle School.
- Our courses are designed for novice learners with little or no knowledge of the language.

If your child has any proficiency with one of the languages he/she should select a different language for study at the Middle School.

If your child is interested in studying Mandarin we would like you to be aware that according to the National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project “learning to read and write Chinese takes a long time. It is important, therefore, that those involved with Chinese programs not expect students’ skills to advance as rapidly as those of students studying other languages.”

The middle school program is a comprehensive program articulated with Concord Carlisle Regional High School - after successful completion of the Middle School program, your child will be placed in the appropriate second year level. At CCHS your child may opt to change languages and start Latin or Spanish. The option to start French or Mandarin at CCHS is dependent on enrollment.

We ask that you and your child carefully discuss the foreign language choices and that your child be committed to studying his/her language selection for all three years of Middle School. Due to the comprehensive and incremental nature of the program it is **not possible** to switch languages after the start of 6th grade.