



St. Louis Language Immersion School

April 5, 2021

Dear SLLIS Community,

Happy Spring! I hope this message finds you in good health and good spirits! I wanted to share some important community updates with you today.

SLLIS Mission, Values, and Purpose + Strategic Planning

We are in the middle of developing a new Strategic Plan at SLLIS! Below is SLLIS' new Mission, Value, and Purpose that was released in January. This language was the outcome from hours of research, discussion, and refinement by the Mission, Values, and Purpose Committee, which was composed of representatives from key SLLIS stakeholder groups.

Mission: SLLIS provides a bilingual, culturally responsive, transformational education that enriches the children of St. Louis City.

Purpose: To dismantle systems of oppression by creating a just, equitable and inclusive school, St. Louis community, and world.

Values:

- Provide an accessible and rigorous bilingual education.
- Listen to and engage all voices.
- Commit to equity, anti-racism, and cultural competency.
- Reflect on and respond to data throughout the school community.
- Celebrate mission moments, both big and small.

The next step in our Strategic Plan process is Action Planning, and our entire community will have the chance to get involved! Stay tuned for details.

Last Day of School and 2021-2022 School Calendar

- Although SLLIS did take a number of inclement weather and COVID-related closure days, we have plenty of school year hours given our early start date this year. As such, **the last day of school for Grades K-8 remains May 28, 2021.**
- Pre-K started after Labor Day, so they will need to make up several days in June. SouthSide's Pre-K team will share further details with Pre-K families.
- The SLLIS Board of Directors has approved the **2021-2022 Calendar**. You can find it here: <https://5il.co/r87x>.

Next Year and Beyond at SLLIS

At this time, we know it's absolutely essential that our parents have a choice between Virtual and In-School Learning. This year, we will continue to serve all our families equitably by providing bilingual instruction for all students - both In-School and Virtual. **Next year, we look forward to adhering with**



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utmost fidelity to our dual language model. This means 50% of the day in French, Spanish, or Chinese in Grades K-8.

With nearly eight months of pandemic operations under our belt and many team members vaccinated, we are finally working towards more “normalcy” at SLLIS. We are very proud of the work we have done this year in the midst of immense challenges, and we anticipate the day where we can welcome our full community back in the building and where our languages are the center of our students’ school days!

Later this spring we will be collecting your feedback as we plan for next year. Make sure to take our surveys and join our Zoom meetings so we can hear from you! As always, our goal is to hear from every SLLIS family.

Middle School Program Expansion: 2021-2022

We are very excited about expanding our Middle School Program in 2021-2022! Our plans for expansion next year include the following:

- Increase daily French, Spanish, and Chinese courses to 50% by hiring 3 Middle School Target Language teachers.
- Increase access to extracurricular activities.
- Structure a state-recognized Pathway to Biliteracy Award for graduating 8th Graders.

We hope you will join us in our Strategic Planning exercises later this spring to help us build a five year vision for our Middle School Program - and for SLLIS as a whole! You can expect a Middle School Update from me later this month to share more details about how our expansion plans are going.

Upcoming Parent Q&A

It has been a very challenging year for all of us. Many of you probably have questions about what next year and beyond will look like at SLLIS. **We want to answer any and all of your questions at our Q&A, and we hope you will join us!**

- **Date and Time:** Monday, April 19 from 12-1 pm
- **Venue:** Zoom and Facebook Live
 - [Zoom link](#)
- **Questions:** We will invite you to ask questions live, or you can submit them in advance and watch the video later to hear the answers! Submit questions in advance by emailing questions@sllis.org.

As always, we thank you for your continued flexibility and commitment throughout this challenging year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Meghan E. Hill

Superintendent

meghan@sllis.org