



St. Louis Language Immersion School

The mission of the St. Louis Language Immersion School, an innovative, diverse, socially-conscious, public charter school, is to develop empathetic, high-achieving, bilingual, globally-minded students by providing a rigorous academic foundation that fosters critical thinking and problem solving.

July 11, 2018

Dear SLLIS Community,

I hope you're enjoying a great summer! We've had a lot of great news at SLLIS over the past couple months that I would like to share with you. At the end of June our charter sponsor, UMSL, notified us that they will renew our charter for an additional five years. We want to thank UMSL for their continued commitment to SLLIS and for sharing this timely news with us - this will definitely help us as we seek a new facility for the 2019-2020 school year. We also want to thank the SLLIS staff and community for all its hard work - we are looking forward to the coming year and a future full of exciting, challenging work at SLLIS!

Our recruitment efforts at SLLIS are also going well. As you know, we have been working with Standing Partnership to increase our online presence and successfully market SLLIS. Our campaign has generated over 250 leads, and we are working diligently to follow up with all interested parties and to encourage them to enroll for the 2018-2019 school year.

We also have some exciting news about our math curriculum. As you know, our Curriculum Review Committee has been hard at work this spring and summer to identify excellent programs to support our new dual language model. We're ready to go with our new Benchmark Advance English Language Arts materials thanks to the committee's efforts. Last week we also approved a math curriculum for SLLIS: Ready Math. Although SLLIS staff has some experience with Ready Math, we are preparing to focus on teacher training and implementation for this program in 2018-2019. If you'd like further information about our math curriculum and the process used to select new materials, please take a look at the board packet from June 28, which contains detailed information about this process. You can find this on our website under "Board Documents."

Along with new curriculum comes a lot of ongoing professional development needs for our staff! We have a very busy Back to School training schedule to ensure our staff is well trained on all our new items. We will also have on-site coaches for our English Language Arts Curriculum. I'm pleased to announce Renee Martin as our English Language Arts Coach on the Papin Campus and Kari Rivers as our English Language Arts Coach on the Marine Campus. Much like the Program Liaison position, our English Language Arts Coaches are SLLIS teachers who will have additional release time to help us ensure excellent implementation of our new program. We are carefully considering how to best provide ongoing staff development to support our Ready Math curriculum implementation as well.

As promised, you will find a complete list of SLLIS 18-19 staff members attached [here](#). You will notice a few staffing changes as you look over the list. First, thanks to our new dual language model, we have an increased level of flexibility in how we staff our elementary classrooms. While in the past we worked very hard to identify highly qualified, target-language speaking elementary teachers, for the first time



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ever in 18-19 we can also open our elementary teaching positions to English speaking teachers who are elementary certified. This will allow us to continue to staff our school with excellent English and target language instructors in our elementary classrooms. You can rest assured that no matter what all SLLIS K-5 students will receive 50% of their instruction in the target language.

There are a couple other changes you will notice as you look at our staff list, and unfortunately these are linked directly to enrollment and budgeting. Due to some lower than expected enrollment at the Marine Campus, we had to combine some sections in the French program in second, third, and fourth grades. In addition, we had to move a Marine campus staff member to a position at Papin for the 18-19 school year. We are grateful for our excellent teaching staff who lead all our classrooms, and we want to do whatever we can to retain our staff members. We are definitely looking forward to being on one campus in the future so we can all work together.

Finally, I would like to provide some clarity regarding grades 6-8 at SLLIS. As you know, we have a very small middle school cohort at SLLIS and are rather limited by our current facilities. As such, Spanish sixth grade will remain on the Papin Campus and will be treated as an elementary classroom with one teacher. French and Chinese sixth grade will be at the Marine campus. Due to the small size of this cohort, our sixth graders at Marine will be part of our Middle School Program. While the core subjects for Marine grades 6-8 will be taught in English by our excellent Middle School team, middle school students at Marine will continue to receive French, Spanish, and Chinese instruction as a specialist class.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the upcoming year. I look forward to answering as many questions as I can in person at my next Facebook Live event in mid-August and will share the details about this event soon. We look forward to seeing our families back on campus August 10 for Meet the Teacher Day!

Sincerely,
Meghan Hill
Executive Director
meghan@sllis.org

P.S. In a couple days you will be receiving a package from SLLIS in the mail containing some highly important documents for the 2018-2019 school year, and I'm attaching the electronic copy [here](#).

- *Please carefully review the information in this packet and bring all required items to Meet the Teacher Day on August 10.*
- *If you require a bus stop for the 2018-2019 school year, you MUST complete a new bus request. This is most easily done online: <http://bit.ly/bus1819>. Alternatively, you may mail in your bus request form.*
- ***If you complete the bus form after July 15 we cannot guarantee a bus route on the first day of school.***