

SLLIS Middle School Update February 2022

As we launched 2021-2022, we expanded our Middle School Program.

We promised a few critical things, **including increased target language, increased access to enrichment activities,** and **recognition for language achievement.**

SLLIS delivered on each of these promises.
Here are some updates!



We increased daily French, Spanish, and Chinese courses to 50% by hiring 3 Middle School Target Language teachers.

- From 20-21 to 21-22, we doubled our Middle School Staff to provide daily target language instruction by fully dedicated Middle School teachers.
- This year, students spend 50% of the day in French, Spanish, and Chinese.

**Increased
Target
Language**

Increased access to enrichment activities

We introduced athletics, including cross country, basketball, and soccer. We also added enrichment opportunities through electives, including:

- Speech and Debate
- Introductory Chinese
- Introductory Spanish
- Intro to Image Editing
- Economics
- Chinese Food and Cuisine
- 3D Construction and Coding
- Intro to American Politics
- Intro to Robotics

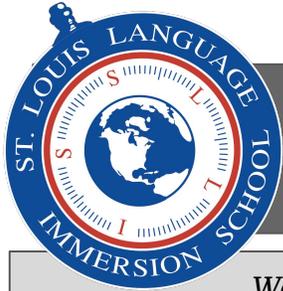
Take a look at our student-produced SLLIS Middle School newsletter, *Just Middle Schoolers*, attached to this update!

Pathway to Bilingual Award

Upon graduation, we will recognize our 8th graders for their achievement in French, Spanish, and Chinese! Students who achieve certain standards in their target languages will be eligible for a SLLIS Pathway to Bilingual award. We are working with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on this process and will share more details about it as they become available.

Will you join us?

- Let us know if you'll join us for 6th, 7th or 8th Grade in 2022-2023 by responding "YES" on our **Intent to Return Form** (link here: <https://forms.gle/gLm3UzRKzDPnOCTK8>)
- **Take a Tour of our Middle School Program!** We invite any member of the SLLIS community to come on campus later this month (safety permitting) to see for themselves! **Our first Middle School Program Tour (offered on campus and virtually) will take place on February 22. We also have tours on March 29, and April 12.** You can sign up for a tour here (scroll to the bottom of the page for the Middle School Program Tour sign-up): <https://enroll.sllis.org/>



Meet our 2021-2022 Middle School Program Team!

We grew our Middle School this year by doubling our staff, offering 50% target language daily, and enhancing enrichment opportunities. Here is our 2021-2022 Middle School Program Team! Read more about the program on Page 1.



Ms. Anastasia Preston

English Language Arts

I am Ms. Preston. My goal as a teacher and educator is to help my students find their passion and life purpose. Along with helping students read, write, listen, and speak with fruition, I hope to help our students start and finish many projects - as well as publish and present them! The talent of a young mind is amazing - especially when people like myself love to help students find their passion and act on it. I am happy to join the SLLIS community!



Ms. Aura Zuleta

Spanish

My name is Aura Zuleta, and as a new member of the staff at St. Louis Language Immersion School, I am excited to be given the opportunity to work with such a wonderful community, about whom I have heard great things. I am from Bogotá, Colombia. I have been a teacher for about 17 years and worked in the USA for the past five years. I value the dedication of teachers, especially how we challenge and support all students so they can have meaningful experiences that enrich their personal growth.



Ms. Peggy Chuang

Chinese

My name is PeiYu Chuang (Peggy Chuang). I'm a 26-year-old, graduating from National ChengKung University majoring in Taiwanese Literature. I am now a master degree student of National Taiwan Normal University majoring in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language.

I took an internship in St. Louis Language Immersion School during 2017-2018 and also in Taipei American School in 2020. I've been teaching Chinese for three years. In the past few years, I've gained plenty of experience teaching students from different countries and ages. From these experiences, I have received abundant training in creating lesson plans and teaching materials.

I set myself very high standards, thus always pushing myself to do better. I always get good feedback from students, parents and the co-workers. I see myself as a responsible and positive person. Thus, I build good relationships with students in class.



Mr. Cheick Nombre

French

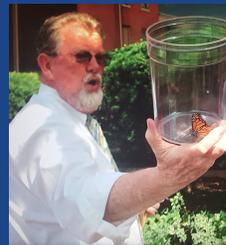
Bonjour! I'm Monsieur Nombre, and I'm thrilled to be the Middle School French Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year! Although I have previously taught all subject matters in elementary school, I have always had a passion for the French language, cultural exchanges and bilingualism in general. I hold a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University at Illinois Springfield. I'm currently pursuing a Masters in Secondary Education at the University of Missouri St. Louis. In my free time, I enjoy reading French literature, running, binge-watching TV and traveling the world (13 countries and counting). I look forward to a great year of learning and teaching! À bientôt!



Dr. Caroline Chemosit

Mathematics

I began my career in education as a high school math and business studies teacher in Kenya. I am excited to be teaching 6-8 grade math. I believe that all students have the potential to succeed and achieve academic greatness. I look forward to a great teaching and learning experience at SLLIS!



Mr. Ken Blanton

Science and Social Studies

Ken Blanton became a member of the St. Louis Language Immersion School Staff in 2017. While at SLLIS he has taught grades 5-8. Before coming to SLLIS, he taught in other districts including rural and urban, and served in numerous administrative capacities including instructional coordinator and building administrator as well as teaching on the college level. He did his undergraduate work at Southwest Baptist University, received a M.A. in administration from Southeast Missouri State University, and post graduate work in educational administration at Saint Louis University. Mr. Blanton has been a member of the National Science Teachers Association and judged many science fair projects throughout the area. He is involved in his local congregation serving in teaching and leadership positions and sings in the chancel choir (pre-COVID and looking forward to returning to choir post-COVID). He also tries to coral two energetic and rambunctious Airedale terriers!

JUST MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

The Middle School Newsletter

February 28, 2022

Advisory Newsletter Club: Maliyah Crawford, Josephine Ransom, Sarah Bishop, Adonai Udodor, Antoinette, Jirhe Uviesherhe, Griffin Lamb, Oliver Tapia, Adonis Anderson

The month of February is a great time to spread the word about what is happening. The Advisory Newsletter club is doing just that. We are a group of awesome news reporters getting the beat on everything that highlights the middle schooler. If you have story ideas, or would like to be interviewed just let us know. Have a great rest of the school year and enjoy your every day!

To Do's in St .Louis

By Maliyah Crawford & Josephine Ransom

1. Get a bird's eye view from the Gateway Arch.
St. Louis, MO 63102
2. Take a thrill ride (or two) at Six Flags.
4900 Six Flags Rd, Eureka, MO 63025
3. Have an animal encounter at Zoo Beyond.
1 Government Dr, St. Louis, MO 63110
4. Take an interactive history lesson at Missouri History Museum.
5000 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

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5. Take a look at the Cathedral Basilica Church.
4431 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108

Our Home Teams; The Cardinals and The Blues

By Adonis Anderson and Griffin Lamb

Once again our home team brings in a massive crowd on a Saturday night. Drivers said, "This traffic is crazy," as a follow up, it was said that "the first thing that came to my mind is there must be a Blues game for so many people to be out like this."



Most of the people that were out that night were driving or walking to the game. There were others coming or going to a Saturday night activity such as a movie or a dinner. Dozens of cars were stuck in traffic from guess where? Our stadium! We headed home with a cheerful 6-4 victory under their belts—From one of the coldest matches in history.

With the 2022 baseball season starting soon, let's talk about it. Spring training will be starting on March 26. The theme tickets have been announced. One of them is a friend's mug and boy band night. We can't wait for the win!

Part 2

It was 2021 January the 18 and it was 8 at clock and we went to explore with more people the abandoned school we loaded ourselves with toy pellet guns but it still hurts if you shoot someone, and so we left some guys were recording and others had flashlights and we parted ways Everything was going a little well when one of my homies took a picture of a girl and some disturbing screams we ran but suddenly for some reason the flashlights lost the battery and someone touched him so we left the place thanks to a kind person who gave us a little light to go out had saved her life from a scare and told us that she was the director of that school and that a woman died there and since then she sometimes leaves school and can be heard in the streets at 12:00 so hardly anyone goes out at that time but when there are party's there's a chance you can see her or heard her drunk guys say that they have heard her in the night. The next day we went to talk to so girls best friends told them if they if they want to come whitd us to check out the school some girls says yes but the rest says that they thirint want it to come so we left early to the school the girls thought it was a joke but it wasn't no joke,so we got there they were already scared and i was like bruh what we are not in the best part yet and then we heard a noise like footsteps behind us so we rand to the other side,one of the three girls said that she felt pressure on the back and she scream and went out of the building so we went behind her and she show us scratches on her back we took her to the doctor because the scratches the she had where serious so me and two of my homies came with us to take her there we took her to her house we she was fine her mom call the cops on the abandoned school the cops were there for a wild but they left because they got too scared so we laugh until we heard a little girls laugh with us and we left,we promise each other that we will never come back again to the school ever again until we heard that there was a missing person who went in there and never came back so i went to my homies talk to them about it the they agree whind the idea so we went we got really crazy thing on camera and photos and it was so so crazy i will never forgot what happened there that night

THIS IS A REAL LIFE STORY



THANKS FOR READING MY STORY

If you what to know more about it send me an Email
Here it is: Oliver.tapia@sllis.org

The Life of a Professional at SLLIS

By Sarah Bishop

I interviewed SLLIS staff about what they do inside and outside of SLLIS.

Mr. Centron- School Psychologist

Sarah: What do you like to do for fun?

Mr. Centron: "I love to play tennis. I also like to play chess, and video games, like *Call of Duty*, *Injustice*, and *Batman*."

Sarah: What influenced you to become a school psychologist?

Mr. Centron: "I had a desire to help students who had a hard time learning, making friends, and fitting in."

Sarah: Do you have any advice for students?

Mr. Centron: "Be kind to each other, and work hard on being the best you you can be."

Sarah: How do you help students?

Mr. Centron: "I work with students to help them know their learning style, so they can be the best they can be. I help teachers to help students learn their strengths and weaknesses, to help them succeed in being the best student they can."

Mrs. Cat- Occupational Therapist

Sarah: What is an occupational therapist?

Ms. Cat: "An occupational therapist helps people do what they want, need, and have to do. We work with all ages of people, and we work with the healthy and the sick."

Sarah: What influenced you to become an occupational therapist?

Ms. Cat: "My oldest sister was getting hand therapy, so I found out about occupational therapy through my sister. I liked that occupational therapists learn a lot of Science and that it's a very creative job."

Sarah: What do you like to do for fun?

Ms. Cat: "I like to lift weights, take care of plants, and dig for rocks in the dirt. I like to eat chocolate and drink coffee. I also have two pet rats named Oreo Wilson, and Shadow Cheesecake".

Sarah: What kind of students come to you?

Ms. Cat: "I normally work with the younger students, and when they come to see me we usually work on handwriting, and managing emotions."

Ask "The Pencil"



-Our Advice Columnist

Mackenzie asks: "How do you avoid or ignore bullies?"

The Pencil: See Ms. Nikki the school counselor.

Ava asks: If the sky could rain food, what food would you like for it to rain?

The Pencil: FRENCH FRIES!!!

Paige asks: Can we stop racism?

The Pencil: YES-If we could erase sad events of history, that would be a solution, but we can not. What we can do now is write about our present and future with awesome words, loving-kindness, and the understanding that all people are unique and amazing in their own styles and ways.

Anonymous #1 asks: How do I study correctly for a test and stay focused while I'm studying?
The Pencil: Find a study partner. Find an organizing app. I recommend "Notion". You can listen to calm instrumental music with no words as well.

Anonymous #2 asks: When will we be able to have a 3D graphics and animations class as an elective?

The Pencil: Hold that thought! I'll have to write to Mr. Wheeler and ask him if it's possible this year. I'll get back with you.

What is YOUR Heart Condition?

By Ms. Preston-Editor In Chief



Is your heart full of joy? Does it pound with excitement? Will it beat with anticipation at the next opportunity to conquer something new? Have you paid attention to those feelings as you reach each day's goals and challenges? The literal and figurative meaning, image and word, "heart" has evolved over time.

By the 18th and 19th centuries (1700-1800), the red shaped heart as we know it, became a recurring symbol of love and affection from early middle age times of artists and scientists



attempting to draw representations of the human heart from medical texts and anatomical drawings.

Self-Care Tip:

Encourage yourself to look in the mirror daily and speak to your own heart. Fill your heart with inspiration, hope, joy, and your latest accomplishments. Be firm with affirmations that make you feel good about yourself. I created this mantra is below for my students:

I Affirm

I am Awesome,

I am Grand.

I love to take a stand;

For what I like,

For who I am,

I am SPECIAL.

Yes, I can

Do Anything!

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