



# 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.*

## **SLLIS Middle School Program Frequently Asked Questions**

*The SLLIS Leadership Team understands the importance of clear information and proactive planning so that families can make informed decisions about enrollment. SLLIS' Team also recognizes that language instruction plays a major role in families' decision processes.*

*To that end, SLLIS' Board and Leadership Team have provided the answers here to common questions about plans for Grades 6-8 in the 2019-2020 school year. This is not an exhaustive list. If you have more questions, make sure to attend an Open House visit any Wednesday in December at 9:00 am at the Marine Campus. You can also watch the Q&A portion of these Open House events on Facebook Live. The SLLIS Leadership Team also welcomes questions via email (contact information below).*

### **How will Grades 6-8 be structured for the 2019-2020 school year?**

This is a very common question because SLLIS' structure for Grades 6-8 has changed over the past few years. For the 2019-2020 school year, you can expect 6th Grade to be distinct from 7th and 8th Grades for all language programs.

In 2019-2020, SLLIS will extend its elementary structure into sixth grade in French, Spanish, and Chinese. This means that students at SLLIS in grades K-6 will follow the Gomez and Gomez model with one homeroom teacher and receive 50% of the core subject instruction (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) in the target language. Some specialist classes will also be taught in the target language in each program, and these details will be determined in Spring 2019.

In 2019-2020 7th and 8th Grades will be structured in the same way as SLLIS' current Middle School Program. This means that students will change classes and have teachers who specialize in the major content areas: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Language Arts instruction will occur both English and the target language. 7th and 8th grade students will also have some specialist classes in the target language, and some of these specialist offerings will include the opportunity to learn a third SLLIS language (Chinese, French, or Spanish).



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## **Where will grades 6-8 be located?**

The SLLIS Facilities Committee continues to work on the 2019-2020 campus. The ultimate goal is to have all K-8 programs under one roof. This would allow SLLIS to maximize its resources and provide further flexibility in staffing and instruction.

## **How much target language instruction can we expect in 6th Grade? Who will teach the target language?**

6th Grade will be structured the same way that SLLIS currently structures its K-5 classrooms: with one lead elementary teacher. 6th graders will have 50% of their core subject instruction in the target language.

## **How much target language instruction can we expect in 7th and 8th Grade? Who will teach the target language?**

SLLIS 7th and 8th graders will continue to receive target language instruction in Language Arts. With the added flexibility of being under one roof, SLLIS intends to provide this instruction using its target language staff. SLLIS 7th and 8th Graders will have 30-40% of their instructional day in the target language.

## **Why should I consider staying at SLLIS for 6th grade?**

The goal of SLLIS' new dual language program is to provide instruction at a gifted and talented level of rigor for all students. If your student has benefited from the program in Grades K-5 and you are seeking more target language experience, 6th grade is an excellent opportunity for more growth.

## **Why should I consider staying at SLLIS for 7th or 8th Grade?**

SLLIS has a highly talented Middle School Program staff and an excellent group of students. Not only will students be able to continue to study the target language in 7th and 8th Grade, they will also experience a school culture of focus, rigor, and academics. It's no wonder that SLLIS' 7th and 8th graders perform so well on the NWEA and MAP. This strong, positive school culture is also why many SLLIS 7th and 8th graders consider themselves part of a learning



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family. 7th and 8th graders even have the option to learn a third language in their specialist offerings!

## **Can you provide an after school Open House?**

Yes! All current SLLIS families are welcome to attend an after school Open House on Tuesday, December 18 at 4:00 pm. You may also attend any of our school day Open Houses on Wednesdays in December at 9:00 am. All Open Houses will be at the Marine Campus (3740 Marine Ave, 63118). We hope to see you at one of these events so you can learn more about our programs!

## **Who can I contact with further questions?**

SLLIS Leadership welcomes all questions about Grades 6-8. Please contact:

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