



# 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.*

December 17, 2018

Dear SLLIS Community,

**We're thrilled to announce that we've purchased a five-story, modern school facility at 1881 Pine Street. We couldn't be more excited about this location for the future home of SLLIS and opening our doors there for next school year.**

For more than a year, our Facilities Committee – which is comprised of seven Board Members, two current parents and our Executive Director – have researched and vetted more than a dozen options for a new SLLIS building. Securing real estate suited for education purposes is an extremely complicated process. We're grateful to this dedicated group for the countless hours they've spent looking out for the best interest of the entire SLLIS community.

Here are a few things we love about the new location and building:

## **URBAN, CENTRALLY LOCATED CAMPUS:**

- This downtown St. Louis building is centrally located and easily accessible off I-64, with plenty of on-site parking.
- It's approximately 3 to 4 miles from each of our current locations and an excellent solution for SLLIS' specific needs! It was designed and built by Anheuser-Busch in the 1980's and was converted into a school in the early 2000's.
- It will offer a truly urban school environment with endless educational opportunities for students, like walking field trips to the Old Courthouse, City Garden and the Central Library.
- There is also lots of investment and development happening in the neighborhood. We're a few short blocks from Union Station (where the new aquarium is underway) and the proposed site of the MLS soccer stadium – and across the street from the St. Louis Police headquarters.
- Bus transportation will continue to be provided to the new location.

## **EXPANSIVE FACILITIES WITH ROOM FOR GROWTH:**

- Situated on 2.3 acres, the new SLLIS campus is a huge upgrade from our current locations. We have plenty of room for our current needs, with room to grow.
- Each of the 47 classrooms are very large and feature a wall of windows for natural light.
- The rest of the more than 117,000-square-foot building includes offices for staff, a full cafeteria and a 6,000-square-foot assembly room that can hold the entire school, with room for students, faculty, staff and parents! There is also a great outdoor play area.
- The site can grow with SLLIS and support everything in our strategic plan. It has room for a new gym and playing fields, as well as a preschool and high school program, with up to 800 total students.



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## **BRINGING THE ENTIRE SLLIS COMMUNITY TOGETHER:**

- To continue our mission to educate bilingual, globally minded students, we believe the school will benefit from bringing our Chinese, French, Spanish and Middle School programs onto one, unified campus.
- With our students, faculty and staff under one roof, we can:
  - Foster a stronger sense of community between parents, students and faculty across programs and gain a deeper understanding of one another's cultures
  - Streamline our operations and the resources required to run two locations and invest cost savings back into the classroom
  - Accommodate the future growth of SLLIS with more indoor and outdoor space

Not only is this location SLLIS' future, but it also played a special role in our history! SLLIS' French program was previously located here before moving to Marine a few years ago. We leased the Pine building then and attempted to purchase it. Being able to purchase it today is a dream come true.

Financially, this site is also a great fit. We were able to put down a sizable down payment after years of careful budget management, and we will save a significant percentage of our annual operating budget by consolidating to one location. This money can be redirected into the things that help SLLIS live up to our shared vision and serve our community.

While there is some light renovation work to do, the relocation effort and budget also includes updates and upgrades to the site, which will begin in early 2019.

As soon as the construction schedule allows, we will host an Open House, so you can see the building for yourself. In the meantime, we look forward to answering any questions you have.

Below are a few ways to get all the details:

- **Join us for a Facebook Live chat from the new location.** On Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 10:30 a.m., we'll go live from the new location to give you a sneak peek and answer your questions. You can



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access the session by visiting [our Facebook page](#), and choose to participate live or view a recording of the session at your convenience.

- **Attend the SLLIS Council and/or Board Meeting.** On Wednesday, Dec. 19, starting at 5 p.m., everyone is welcome to join the SLLIS Council meeting. Then, at 6 p.m., the SLLIS Board of Directors will meet and Executive Director Meghan Hill will give a full relocation update. Both events will take place at the Papin campus. You are welcome to join in person or watch the Board Meeting via Facebook Live.
- **Send any questions or comments via email.** As always, please contact us at [questions@sllis.org](mailto:questions@sllis.org), or respond to this email. We'll answer your questions as quickly as we can.

Please know that we've appreciated your patience throughout this process. A relocation requires lots of time and due diligence, but we're confident we've found the best place for SLLIS. We know a new location may impact your schedule and routine, but we hope you'll join us in celebrating the future of SLLIS and bringing our entire community together!

Also, special thanks go out to Laura Tully and Mattie White, our two SLLIS parents who stepped up to volunteer for the Facilities Committee and represent the interests and concerns of our families. From site visits to financing meetings, your dedication to this process was immensely appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Vince Schoemehl  
Chair, SLLIS Board of Directors