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Victor F. Capellan, Superintendent

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Central Falls School District to open new dual language PK-6 School

“Central Falls School District will build on the success of its dual language program and will launch a new dual language school for students in PK-6 in Spanish and English.”

Central Falls, RI: The Central Falls School District is building on the success of its dual language program and capitalizing on the assets of its students and the city of Central Falls by launching a new dual language school. The school will serve students in PK to grade 6 in Spanish and English. The Central Falls Board of Trustees endorsed at its last meeting on February 27th, the creation of “The World Explorers Dual Language Academy” set to open in the fall at the Robertson school building which will serve up to 280 students.

“Central Falls is focused on redesigning learning and teaching in a way that addresses the root causes of inequities and this new school will build on the richness of our students’ and their family linguistic and cultural assets,” said Victor F. Capellan, Superintendent of Schools in Central Falls. “We are excited to be able to double down on the promise of dual language education and to utilize a strength-based approach to improve teaching and learning in the district and to make our students competitive in a global economy.”

Central Falls has recently launched an ambitious and bold redesign process with the goals of reversing historical patterns of inequities, challenging the status quo, disrupting instructional practices resulting in stagnant achievement, and rewriting the narrative about learning and teaching in Central Falls.

“Learning in both languages celebrates the multilingualism of the Central Falls community and is an evidence-based practice for highly effective learning. We are thrilled to expand access to such an asset based approach to learning for more CF students.” said Dr. Stephanie Downey Toledo, Chief Academic Officer in Central Falls. “This new school will double the size of our successful dual language program that is currently housed at Veterans Elementary School and will give our many more students this rich learning opportunity.”



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“We are grateful to the School Board of Trustees for endorsing our plan and to our teachers for engaging in the design of this new school,” said Sergio Paez, Director of Equity, Empower and Excellence for English Language Learners in Central Falls. “Research is clear that dual language programs close the achievement gap (Thomas & Collier, 2012) and so this is a research based, evidence-based program that will yield great results for our students.”

The World Explorers Dual Language Academy will serve half of students in Spanish and the other half in English. Instruction will be delivered 50% in each language, with a curriculum that is aligned with common core standards and covered progressively in both languages.

Families interested in having their students attend the Dual Language school in Central Falls are able to register at the Registration Center, 949 Dexter Street in Central Falls.

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About Central Falls:

The Central Falls School District is in the vibrant, densely populated, 1.3 square mile city of Central Falls in northeastern Rhode Island. The school district educates approximately 2,800 students in its schools. Central Falls School District is home to a diverse student population: More than 70% percent of the student population is Hispanic, 15 percent is African American, and 13 percent is White. 33% of our students are English language Learners (ELL) and 24% have an individualized education plan. In addition to racial and ethnic diversity, students represent a diverse population in terms of socioeconomic status and academic needs. District-wide, 89% of our students are eligible for subsidized lunch; the state average is 48%.

The Mission of the Central Falls School District is to develop its diverse student population into responsible citizens, effective communicators, innovative problem-solvers and critical thinkers who are able to fully participate in and positively contribute to society. The school community is committed to the attainment of high standards by all students by ensuring a literacy-rich learning environment and providing results-oriented educational leadership at all levels. The District ensures that our core values of Equity – Empowerment – Excellence are embedded in all relationships, learning opportunities, and teaching practices.