



# SHADY SIDE

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## A C A D E M Y

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
500 Squaw Run Road East  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412-968-3100

May 1, 2020

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

Sixth grade students are currently participating in the FLEX language program. By year's end, they will have taken one term each of Latin, Chinese, and Spanish. This program is designed so that the students have a parallel experience in each of these language courses. The academic rigor and design for each language are the same. The goal for this experience is for students to have the opportunity to appreciate each language so that they may determine which of the three languages they would like to continue in their Form I and Form II years. Research has determined that students are more engaged in a language when they themselves have chosen it. Making this determination should be based on several factors including:

- 1) Performance in the language in sixth grade
- 2) Desire or motivation to continue in the language for at least the next two years
- 3) Future plans in language selection at the Senior School (Completing a language through their Form II year satisfies one year of the three consecutive year commitment to a language)
- 4) Parental input on what language should be chosen

Students and parents may talk to their language teachers and advisors for guidance on the selection of languages for their Form I and Form II years. This decision should not be based on what language their friends are planning to take or which language seems to be the easiest, but should reflect the personal interests and academic goals of each student. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [kwood@shadysideacademy.org](mailto:kwood@shadysideacademy.org).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelli L. Wood  
MS World Languages Learning Area  
Coordinator