



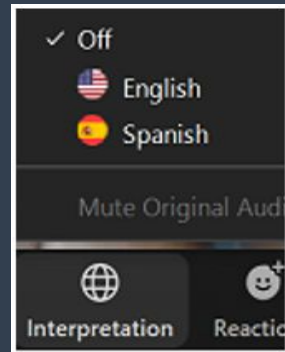
Spring Branch ISD
parentU
A Family Learning Experience

Building Bridges to Middle School: A Family Roadmap

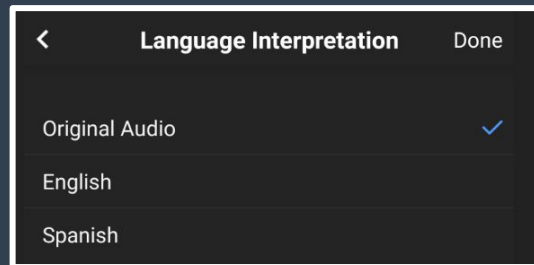
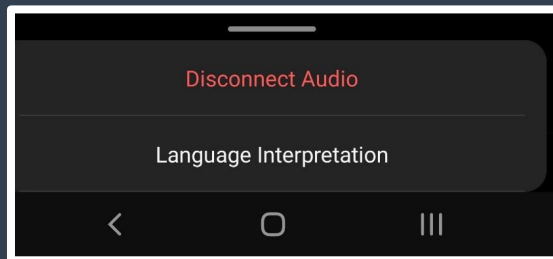
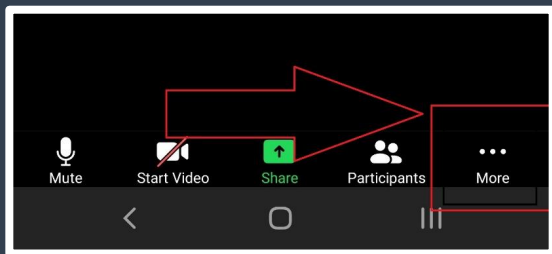
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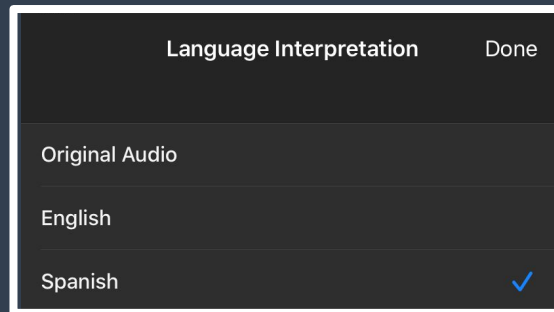
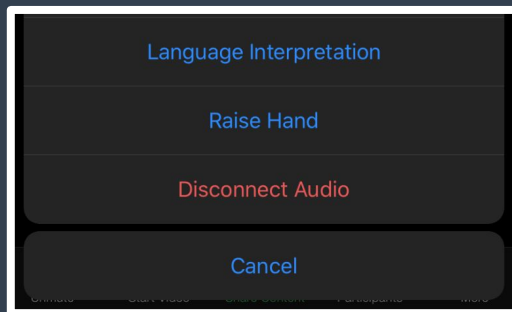
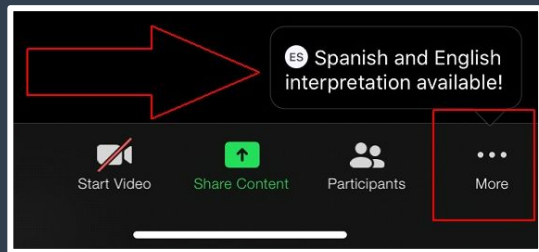
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Roadmap

For tonight's meeting:

- Moving to Middle School
- Course Selection
- Advanced Academics
- Fine Arts
- Athletics

Moving to Middle School

- **February 11-** 5th grade students visit their home middle school campuses
 - Tour the campus
 - See different classes and electives
 - Learn about the school
 - Meeting important staff members
- **Parent Information sessions** are typically hosted on the campuses that week
- Students receive **6th grade course selections** in February
- **November 11- January 17-** Choice Application Window
- **February 10-March 21-** Transfer Application Window



6th Grade Schedule

- 8 period schedule:
 - Language Arts (2 periods)
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Electives and Support Classes (3 periods)
- Required in Middle School:
 - 4 Semesters of Physical Education
 - 1 Semester of Fine Arts

Course Selection

- Students may choose:
 - Academic level of core classes
 - Advanced Academic Course
 - Grade Level course
 - Elective courses
 - Health Fitness
 - Fine Arts
 - Alternate courses in case they are not able to get their first choices for electives

Advanced Academics

- Advanced Academic Courses (AAC) are offered in all core classes
- Current 5th grade teachers make recommendations for placement
- Parents may also request the AAC level of a core academic course

Advanced Academics

- Advanced courses help improve writing skills, problem-solving techniques, and study habits
- Advanced courses improve skills needed for success beyond school:
 - Critical Thinking
 - Analysis
 - Teamwork
 - Project Management
- Long-term- prepares students for high school courses that earn college credit

Advanced Academic Courses (AAC)

- Move at a faster pace
 - Require more independent work
 - May require more homework
 - Stretches intellectual muscles
- Be cautious about packing a schedule with too many advanced courses- find the right balance of challenge
- Consider getting recommendations from current teachers in that core content before signing up for the advanced level

Advanced Math

- Options for acceleration
 - Choose 6th Grade AAC Math (Algebra I in 8th grade)
 - Math Acceleration through testing and a summer course (Algebra I in 7th grade)
 - Math Acceleration through Credit by Exam
 - **January 16-** Parent U: Understanding Math Pathways

6th Grade Electives

Elective considerations:

- Most 6th grade students take Health Fitness
 - Off Campus Health Fitness
 - Fine Arts
- Some students may need additional academic support and will take a support class as an elective
- Electives vary by campus but generally include fine arts options, Spanish, Technology Applications, and others
- For updated information on course offerings, check out the Middle School Course Catalog

Fine Arts in Middle School

Every Middle School Student will be involved with Fine Arts to some degree

- Band
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Theatre
- Visual Art



Fine Arts

- Every 6th grader is initially put into a fine arts class.
- Band and Orchestra students really need to begin in the 6th grade.
- Some schools offer high school credit for Art 1 in the 8th grade.
- There is some cost associated with being in an instrumental program such as Band or Orchestra. However, all of our schools have many options available to minimize that cost.

Health Fitness and Athletics in Middle School

- 4 semesters of Health Fitness/Athletics are required in middle school.
- Off-Campus Health Fitness is an option beginning in middle school.
- Middle School athletics begins in 7th grade.



Athletics

- MS Athletics are **Educationally Based** and include multiple measures of success:
 - Athletic excellence
 - Academic excellence
 - Character and leadership development
 - Community service
- Students are encouraged to try all sports
- MS Sports include:
 - Football
 - Volleyball
 - Basketball
 - Track and Field
 - Cross Country
 - Soccer

Athletics

6th Graders are encouraged to get involved in programs with our local partners: SBMSA, Spring Spirit, Family Point Resources, YMCA, Dad's Club.

7th & 8th grade required participation documents:

- Physical
 - Offered by SBISD & Memorial Hermann in fall & spring semesters.
 - Local clinics or pediatricians
- Required documents will need to be completed online through the Rank One portal which can be accessed through the Athletic Department website.

Important dates

- **February 11**
 - 5th grade students visit their home middle school campuses
- ***Look for communication from your student's middle school regarding a parent meeting***
- **November 11- January 17**
 - Choice Application Window
- **February 10-March 21**
 - Transfer Application Window



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QUESTIONS?





Spring Branch ISD
Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.