# Syosset Central School District K-12 World Language Program

Dr. David Balsamo | Mr. David Steinberg | Dr. Jeanette Wojcik

# BOE Goals Alignment

| BOE Goal | World Language Program | Key Outcomes |
|---|---|---|
| **Academic Excellence** | Biliteracy, proficiency-based continuum, interdisciplinary connections | Students achieve advanced proficiency and the Seal of Biliteracy |
| **Inclusive & Engaging Culture** | Cultural understanding, empathy, ASL inclusion, diverse representation, FLEX | Promotes global citizenship, empathy, and inclusion |
| **Connected Community** | Family engagement, student choice, heritage language recognition | Builds trust, engagement, and belonging across cultures |
| **Transparent & Efficient Operations** | Data-driven decisions, responsive programming | Ensures sustainable, transparent, and strategic program management |

# Intercultural Skills & Global Citizenship

**Products**

**Practices**

**Perspectives**

- Perspective- Taking
- Ethical and Critical Thinking
- Respect for Diversity
- 22 different home languages

# Elementary FLEX Program

| Grades K & 1 | Grades 2 & 3 | Grades 4 & 5 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| American Sign Language<br><br>Early Literacy Skills | Asian Languages & Cultures | European Languages & Cultures |

# Revised Elementary FLEX Topics

World Geography, Languages & Cultures

Holidays, Festivals & Celebrations

Foods from Around the World

School Life Around the World

The Arts

Hobbies, Games, Sports & Pastimes

Grade 2

# Unit 3: Foods Around the World

**Unit Introduction:**

- Learners will be introduced to cuisine around the world.
- Food plays an integral part in one's culture, and food choices are not only based on personal preference, but also society and nutritional value.
- Students will learn about cultural foods, food choices, how and why they are made, and how to appropriately act in a restaurant.

Grade 2

# Unit 3: Foods Around the World

**Enduring Understandings:**

- Food is an important aspect of cultural identity.
- Going to a restaurant is a different experience for each world culture.
- Cuisine varies among the target language countries.

Grade 2

# Unit 3: Foods Around the World

**Essential Questions About Culture & Language:**

- How is what I eat similar to or different from the target culture?
- How does where someone lives in a country affect diet?
- How do I communicate what I want to eat in different cultural contexts?
- What are some staple foods of the target-language countries?

Grade 2

# Unit 3: Foods Around the World

**Cross Cutting Connections:**

Grade 2 social studies

- Rural, suburban, urban
  - How does where one lives affect diet?
- Geography, humans, and environment
  - How does what we eat affect the environment?
- Economic interdependence
  - How do people meet their needs and wants?

# Transition to Language Proficiency

| Interpretive | Interpersonal | Presentational |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Understand Messages | Negotiate Meaning | Create Messages |

# Process for Language Options

**Language Selection**

- Grade 5

**Review of Language Choices in 2022**

- Engaged stakeholders
- Korean offered in 6th grade 2022-23 for the first time

**Review of Language Choices in 2023**

- Level 1 Japanese & Level 1 Latin at Syosset High School did not have sufficient enrollment to start a new cohort.

# Secondary World Language

| Checkpoint A | Checkpoint B | Checkpoint C |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grades 6, 7 & 8 | Grades 9 & 10 | Grades 11 & 12 |
| Checkpoint A Exam | Checkpoint B Exam | AP / College Level |
| Novice Level | Intermediate Level | Seal of Biliteracy |
| 96% of class | Advanced Regents Diploma | 75% of class |
| | 94% of class | |

# Ongoing Program Shifts

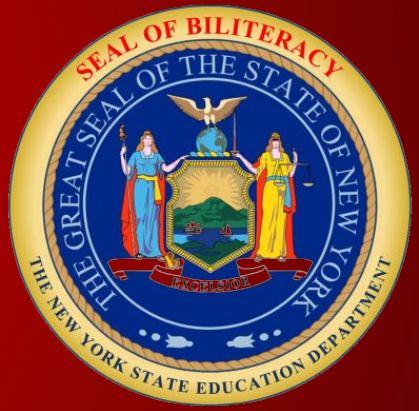
**Review of Language Choices in 2024-25**

- Addition of honors level Korean 2H (25-26) & 3H(26-27)
- Trend of declining enrollment in 6th grade French & Italian. Low enrollment in Korean.
- Monitor 6th grade choices for 26-27

# New York State Seal of Biliteracy

*116 Seniors Earn the Seal in 2025*

- Graduation Designation
- Intermediate High in English and Another Language
- World Language Courses
- ENL Students
- Heritage Language Students



# Future Opportunities

- Monitor Language Enrollment
- Increase Participation in  Seal of Biliteracy
  - English Language Learners