

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES**

#### **SPANISH:**

Spanish in the middle schools is a vibrant language experience which transitions incoming sixth graders to a more formal path of study while maintaining an advanced conversational and aural component. During Spanish 1 in sixth grade, students utilize the substantial foundation of knowledge they have acquired in elementary school to expand their vocabulary and speak and write in whole sentences with greater ease. In seventh and eighth grades (Spanish 2.1 and 2.2), students move toward a more rigorous study of grammar in preparation for their potential entrance into level 3 at Staples High School. Students engage with the Spanish language through a mixture of games, songs, books, grammar practice, cultural experiences and consistent employment of the concepts they learn in class. The emphasis at all times is on meaningful communication in Spanish through daily speaking and writing activities. Theme based topics studied in middle school include areas such as education, the family, the home, weather, clothing, shopping expressions, community, food, travel, leisure activities, and sports. At the middle school level, students studying Spanish will learn in a safe environment that encourages risk taking as they develop the language skills necessary for success in the future.

#### **FRENCH:**

Students who begin their study of French in middle school will be immersed in the beauty of the French language and French culture. They will learn conversational French in theme-based units utilizing dialogues, books and studies of people living in French-speaking countries around the world. In sixth grade students will learn the basic skills necessary to communicate with each other and discuss their everyday lives. As students begin the 7th grade curriculum, they will learn the speaking skills needed to enjoy ordering in a restaurant, shopping for school and food, getting around town, and even organizing a trip to a French –speaking country. Recitation of poems, participation in skits, songs and games and other readings, listening to music and watching movie clips from authentic French sources will also contribute to enhancing students' learning in middle school. As students' progress in their study of French in 8th grade, they will expand their language proficiency by learning to communicate about past events. French students will work in a positive and nurturing environment that encourages them to learn this new language, becoming real-life speakers of French, well-equipped with language skills needed for success in the future.

#### **MANDARIN CHINESE:**

Middle school Mandarin Chinese is an engaging language experience which offers 6 - 8 grade students the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to communicate in everyday scenarios. Mandarin students develop communication skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through thematic units relevant to their daily lives. Through the use of technology, authentic tasks and real-life experiences, students will be provided with opportunities to explore and experience the wide variety of cultures of Mandarin Chinese speakers. The program encourages students to take risks with the language as they develop the necessary skills to become global citizens. Students entering high school will be able to navigate day to day cultural situations and express past and future events

## **MUSIC COURSES**

### **BAND:**

Students in Band enjoy performing in an ensemble including traditional woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments while developing healthy playing technique, musical knowledge and listening skills. Band instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Students rehearse as a large ensemble twice each week and receive one small group lesson that offers individualized support in a low-risk setting and the ability for teachers to closely assess student progress. Students will showcase their musical achievements in winter and spring concerts as well as the Westport Memorial Day Parade.

### **ORCHESTRA:**

Students in Orchestra enjoy performing in a string ensemble while developing healthy playing technique, musical knowledge and listening skills. Orchestra instruments include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students rehearse as a large ensemble twice each week and receive one small group lesson that offers individualized support in a low-risk setting and the ability for teachers to closely assess student progress. Students will showcase their musical achievements in winter and spring concerts.

### **CHORUS:**

Students enjoy performing in a choral ensemble while developing their musical knowledge and skills and the study of healthy vocal technique. Students enrolled in Chorus perform a wide variety of styles and genres of developmentally appropriate repertoire and showcase their musical abilities in winter and spring concerts. This class meets two times per week during the school day.

### **MUSIC 6**

Students in Music class meet two times per week on the school day and complete short units of musical study; perform, analyze, reflect on and create music. Students are assessed on their understanding of the musical concepts studied through tests and written evaluations.

### **MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY 7, 8**

Students in Music and Technology explore the “how” and “why” music sounds the way it does. This is done through further development of musical knowledge and skills, the study of musical history and styles, and applying these to compositional elements and projects through the use of music software. Music and Technology is a mostly project-based learning class.

**The next page is the graph to circle the selections**

Circle **one** music selection for the appropriate grade your child is in.

<b>GRADE 6 MUSIC SELECTIONS</b>	BAND	ORCHESTRA	CHORUS	GENERAL 6	<b>2x's a week</b>
<b>GRADE 7 MUSIC SELECTIONS</b>	BAND	ORCHESTRA	CHORUS	MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY	<b>2x's a week</b>
<b>GRADE 8 MUSIC SELECTIONS</b>	BAND	ORCHESTRA	CHORUS	MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY	<b>2x's a week</b>

Circle **one** world language selection for the appropriate grade your child is in.

<b>GRADE 6 WORLD LANGUAGE SELECTIONS</b>	SPANISH	FRENCH	MANDARIN/ CHINESE	<b>MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT</b>
<b>GRADE 7 WORLD LANGUAGE SELECTIONS</b>	SPANISH	FRENCH	MANDARIN/ CHINESE	<b>MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT</b>
<b>GRADE 8 WORLD LANGUAGE SELECTIONS</b>	SPANISH	FRENCH	MANDARIN/ CHINESE	<b>MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT</b>