

February 4, 2019 Intermediate Curriculum Corner

World Language

A new year is well under way and our students are diving deep into language study. Intermediate level Spanish students have just completed or are now beginning their quarter of language study. For the 6th and 7th graders who have completed the quarter, that means finishing up some fables and legends that are culturally connected to Spanish-speaking countries. They have learned names for animals and actions those animals do, and should be able to retell the stories, name the key characters, identify if they are people or animals, and name and describe their habitats. These are skills that are transferable to the language arts, science, social studies, and math curricula, as they are learning the language of mathematical expressions.

The incoming 6th and 7th graders will begin with a review of prior knowledge and concepts to become acclimated to a 90% Spanish language classroom environment where they will hear and utilize the target language in context. They will be using numbers, calendar expressions and weather phrases, as well as classroom and courtesy expressions to interact with their teacher and, ultimately, with their classmates. The 8th graders are learning how to describe themselves and others using descriptive words about physical and personality characteristics.

If you would like to help your child review, you can ask your 6th or 7th grader to tell you about one of the stories they have read and ask them about the beginning, middle and end of the story. Those who are just beginning should be able to talk about classroom rules, how to ask someone's name or age, tell about the weather, etc. To review with your 8th grader, you can ask him/her to describe him/herself or other family members and identify people in family pictures by how they are related or the person's age or a simple description of them. For those 8th graders just beginning, you might want to start selecting some family pictures that will help prepare a family album to talk about relatives.

In February and March, our Spanish classes will be learning about Women's History Month and Black History Month, and will be able to share with you some information about a famous woman or person of color they are learning about or have researched. There is a wonderful book in English, [Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King](#), with a translated Spanish language version, [Feliz Cumpleaños, Martin Luther King](#), which students can easily comprehend when they read it in class. This is a wonderful, short biography that helps to affirm to students how much language they have learned in such a short time.

Have you heard? All three intermediate schools are piloting a full year Spanish 1 course, taught by our World Language teachers, as an additional elective for selected students who wish to

accelerate their language learning and work toward enrolling in Spanish 2 as a freshman in high school. Students attend class daily and work in a traditional classroom setting as well as independently through moderated online units of language study, while a World Language teacher assesses their progress and practices interpersonal communication skills each week. What a way to prepare our 21st century learners to be global leaders!