
Folsom Hills Elementary School

Shawn Michael Lundberg, Principal



Dear Parents of Incoming 1st Graders in the Spanish Magnet Program –

Folsom Hills is very proud of its Spanish Magnet program (FLES - *Foreign Language Experience, Spanish*), and we are very much looking forward to having your student in our program next year. In order to adequately prepare students and their families for the upcoming grade, teachers and myself have met and reviewed what we consider to be the most important elements of ensuring student success.

Attendance is crucial to a student's success in the program. We are asking that parents of students in the FLES program make every attempt to not remove their children from school for vacation or routine appointments. Unforeseen family emergencies and illness happen to us all, however, the intense nature of the program does make absences that can be avoided untenable, in that extended absences can negatively impact a student's academics.

On a similar note, student behavior is also key to a successful year. Students who struggle behaviorally in class have been documented as having trouble catching up with their peers after suspensions, time-outs, and other off-task behaviors which interrupt their learning. If your student is new to the program, or is currently enrolled, and you feel this may be an issue, you may wish to contact the teacher or myself prior to school ending and discuss options. Please note that students who are placed in the program by their parents, but who have expressed little or no interest or resisted participating themselves, have a much higher incidence of behavior-related issues.

Academically, students participating in the program should be performing at grade level or above, and be self motivated learners who will commit to extra homework in both English and Spanish. Extra homework is found throughout the program at all grade levels. It is a major commitment on the part of the family as well as the student. Listed below is some specific information about the program as it relates to 1st grade:

- First grade can be a demanding year for students, both academically and socially. Reading and mathematics serve as the core subjects, with reading and ELA skills reinforced through smaller class sizes in both morning and afternoon groupings (early bird/late bird). Some specific areas of note:
 - This will be the first time, for the majority of students, that they will be attending school for a full day. Many students may struggle with the change initially, but they quickly adapt.
 - The curriculum is very fast paced and it includes many new concepts. The second half of the year, starting in December, requires significantly more effort from the student.
 - Important to note here again is the fact that students who struggle academically have the potential to become frustrated within the FLES model. Students in the FLES program have added classwork compared to their peers, in that Spanish is added on top of the standardized curriculum as prescribed by the state of California. However, school is the same length of time for all those enrolled at Folsom Hills, be they in a FLES classroom or a standard 1st grade classroom.

Many parents request specific information about ensuring their child's success in the program, especially when the

curriculum is different than what may be found in a typical, non-FLES classroom. The information found below may provide parents with some assistance in adequately preparing their student for the upcoming year.

- Plan to add 15 extra minutes to their regular homework to go over Spanish vocabulary.
- Students should know how to count and also identify numbers 1-100 in English.
- Students should know how to decode words (emergent reader) in English.
- Students will need to work independently.
- First grade students will review the foundations of the Spanish language throughout the year. While there is a lot of new vocabulary, much of it is built off of the Kindergarten scaffold from the year before. Students entering the program at the first grade level should know the following vocabulary:
 - Numbers 1-20
 - Colors (rojo, anaranjado, amarillo, verde, azul, morado, blanco, negro, café, rosado)
 - Shapes (círculo, cuadrado, rectángulo, triángulo)
 - Body parts (cabeza, ojos, nariz, boca, orejas, manos, pies)
 - Morning, afternoon, and evening greetings (buenos días, buenas tardes, buenas noches, hola, ¿Cómo estas?, muy bien, gracias)
 - Family members (papá, mamá, hermano, hermana, abuelo, abuela)
 - Information about self (gracias, de nada, por favor, me llamo..., mi cumpleaños es..., mi número de teléfono es...)
 - Classroom phrases (levántate, siéntate, levanta la mano, abre/cierra la puerta, apaga la luz)
 - Food in Spanish (la manzana, el plátano, la sandía, la naranja, la zanahoria, el tomate, la cebolla, la lechuga, la papa)
 - Classroom objects (la silla, la mesa, el suelo, el piso, el lápiz, las tijeras, la goma, los crayones, la mochila)
 - Weather (hace..frío, calor, sol, llueve)

Again, we are looking forward to a great year with all of our students and families here at Folsom Hills. If you feel that your son or daughter would benefit from some review over the summer, a summer study packet is available for download on the school web page at www.fcusd.org/fheweb. Likewise, if this letter should elicit any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us; as a team, all of us can help ensure student success.

Sincerely,



Shawn Michael Lundberg
Principal, Folsom Hills Elementary School