
Folsom Hills Elementary School

Shawn Michael Lundberg, Principal



Dear Parents of Incoming 4th Graders in the Spanish Magnet Program –

Folsom Hills is very proud of its Spanish Magnet program (FLES - *Foreign Language Experience, Spanish*), and we very much look forward to having your child in our program next year. In order to adequately prepare students and their families for the upcoming grade, the FLES teachers and I 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 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 4th grade:

- Fourth grade can be a challenging year for *all* students. Some specific areas of note:
 - The curriculum is very fast paced, and it includes many new concepts. Students are required to write in cursive only, to write multiparagraph compositions (summaries, responses to literature, and narratives), to divide and multiply multi-digit numbers by two-digit numbers, to find equivalent fractions, to convert fractions to decimals, to solve algebraic equations, to graph equations, and much more.
 - Although the subject matter in fourth grade is more demanding for students, the teacher has fewer opportunities to work individually with a class of 34 students.
 - Students in the FLES program have added classwork compared to their peers since Spanish is added on top of the standardized curriculum as prescribed by the state of California. In 4th grade Spanish, students must study Spanish flashcards at home with parents Monday through Thursday as part of their weekly homework.

Many parents request specific information in order to ensure their child's success in the FLES program. Fourth grade students, utilizing the textbook and workbook *iHola!*, will study the following topics in Spanish over the course of the

school year:

- Places
- Plural nouns
- Adjectives
- Noun/adjective agreement
- Classroom vocabulary
- *Voy, vas, va*
- *Gustar*
- School subjects
- Regular *-ar*, *-er*, and *-ir* verb conjugations for singular subject pronouns
- Expressions with *hacer* and *tener*
- Time
- Family
- Weather
- Basic classroom conversational phrases to address needs (i.e., May I use the restroom? I need a book from my backpack. May I fill my water bottle?)

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