
Folsom Hills Elementary School

Shawn Michael Lundberg, Principal



Dear Parents of Incoming 2nd 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 2nd grade:

- Second grade can be a demanding year for students, both academically and socially. Reading and mathematics remain core subjects, with reading and ELA skills reinforced through smaller class sizes in both morning and afternoon groupings (early bird/late bird). Socially, many boys and girls begin exploring friendships beyond those in their immediate neighborhood, bringing new ideas and perspectives to light. Some specific areas of note:
 - The curriculum, while not as fast paced as that of 1st grade, still includes many new concepts and academic strategies crucial to success at school, be it at Folsom Hills, middle school, or high school.
 - 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 2nd 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.

- At the beginning of the year, students are given a pre-placement test that matches the adopted Spanish curriculum; the test allows the teacher to assess what information has been retained from both kindergarten and first grade.
- Students will transition from writing out vocabulary words, to actually transferring those words onto paper in sentence/phrase form.
- The entire curriculum from first grade is expanded upon, in a very similar fashion as to how the curriculum is expanded upon in ELA/mathematics, as prescribed by the state of California.
- Parents will need to actively participate in student's nightly homework. Spanish concepts and vocabulary must be reviewed at home nightly to ensure retention.
- Students begin reading in Spanish for practice.
- Second grade students will learn the basic vocabulary relating to each topic below, as well as practice the following conversational vocabulary in Spanish:
 - A student's immediate surroundings (i.e the classroom, other rooms on campus, staff positions)
 - Colors (rojo, anaranjado, amarillo, verde, azul, morado, blanco, negro, café, rosado)
 - Numbers
 - Body parts (cabeza, ojos, nariz, boca, orejas, manos, pies)
 - Weather expressions, terms and descriptive characteristics (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