



St. Louis Language Immersion Schools Inc.

"To position all children for success in local & global economies through holistic, intellectually-inspiring language immersion programs."

May 19, 2017

Dear SLLIS Parents/Guardians:

A very demanding but productive school year is coming to an end! Before we breathe a huge sigh of relief and head into summer break, I would like to take a moment or two to provide some important updates:

The Board of Directors approved the 2017-2018 Budget at the May 17th meeting. Even with substantial budget challenges, we were able to create a balanced budget and make improvements in the areas of salaries and per pupil spending. Below are some of the budget highlights:

- Eliminated an almost \$250,000 gap due to reduced levels of federal funding in Title I and Title II
- Increased budget per pupil by 50% from \$100 to \$150 for instructional materials and supplies
- Ensured all teachers for the first time were aligned on the correct lane/step of the salary schedule, creating an average of 3.8% salary increases
- Increased support staff salaries to put them in line with market salaries

In order to fund student field trip transportation and other instructional supplies, the Board also voted to postpone Middle Years Programme (MYP) candidacy for one school year for our seventh and eighth graders. In postponing candidacy for only one year, International Baccalaureate will hold us harmless and allow SLLIS to resume planning for MYP the following school year (2018-2019).

We are currently projecting 760 students for next year and cautiously optimistic that we will be able to enroll another 30 families at the kindergarten/first grade levels over the next two months. Any additional revenue generated through increased enrollments over the summer will be designated to purchase additional instructional materials and/or open additional teaching/social worker position(s).

Other important news you should know:

- We are excited to announce that Jessica López is our Primary Years Programme (PYP) Teacher Leader, Keri MacArthur is our new Enrollment Coordinator, and, Elizabeth Coggins is our new PBIS Coordinator!
- Senior leadership will be hard at work this summer developing or revising systems and structures for parents, staff and students in order to make the opening of the 2017-2018 year as one school be as successful as possible. We look forward to issuing you a new parent/student handbook in August!
- In order to support our merger into one school and help foster more collaborative working relationships between everyone, all SLLIS staff will receive diversity training on August 7th and 8th, led by the local non-profit Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP).

Despite any challenges caused by our financial and facilities situations, we continue to focus on improvement and we continue to find ways to leverage our resources—people, time, dollars and relationships—toward boosting success for students and creating a strong and excellent school of which our community can be justifiably proud.

We are also pleased to announce (see below) the tentative lead classroom teacher assignments for 2017-2018.

Thank you for all of your support and dedication to SLLIS this year. We look forward to working with you next year and are confident that we will continue to make improvements that will benefit your child's academic experience. Have a safe and fun summer!

Sincerely,

Lilith Werner, PhD
Superintendent

TENTATIVE 2017-2018 LEAD CLASSROOM TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS

(while all staff have been informed of their grade levels, please note that changes can occur over the summer due to other staff turnover or any reduction/increase in enrollments).

*indicates offered job - paperwork in process

Chinese Program	
Kindergarten	Yachin Lee
Kindergarten	Lijie Sanders
1st Grade	Zheng Wang (Ming)
1st Grade	Tzu - Shan Huang
2nd Grade	Tzu - Fang Lin
3rd Grade	Haoli Collings*
3 / 4 Grade	Naxin Fan
4th Grade	Nannan Huang
5th Grade	Fan Yang
6th Grade	Pei-Hsun Chin

French Program	
Kindergarten	Kari Rivers
1st Grade	Christelle Mukendi
2nd Grade	Yves Conseant*
2nd Grade	Danielle Coffyn
3rd Grade	Hannah Stout
4th Grade	Adeline LeBorgne
5th Grade	Sabrina Poirier
6th Grade	Lorena Veresh

Spanish Program	
Kindergarten	Angela Cuartas and Estrella Bulock
Kindergarten	Scheilla Schallon and Gloria Martin
Kindergarten	Jose M Castro and Maria Jose Diaz
1st Grade	Jessica Lopez
1st Grade	Vanessa Diaz
1st Grade	Lucia Cañete
2nd Grade	Caralyn Harmon
2nd Grade	Karina Otoyá
2nd Grade	New Hire
3rd Grade	Wanda Aponte
3rd Grade	Kelly Dale*
4th Grade	Maria Garcia Foz
4th Grade	Gina Muñoz*
5th Grade	Raul Muñoz
5th Grade	Ana Lopez
6th Grade	Ivan Astwood*

Upper Grade (7th and 8th) Staff	
Upper Grades French Homeroom	Celine Dissel
Upper Grades Spanish Homeroom	Ben Deloya
Upper School ELA Specialist	Rebecca Schneider
Upper School Math Specialist	Michelle Joyce