

April 5, 2019

Dear Incoming Sixth Grade Parents,

This Fall, Anderson High School reached out to our campus to discuss the World Language Program for 6th graders at MMS. Below is a summary of what they have noticed in their students over the past several years:

Anderson World Language Key Points to support changes in the Murchison Middle School World Language Program

Due to level I and II of World Languages taught at the middle school 6th through 8th grade for high school credit, the Anderson World Language team has observed the following:

- Incoming freshmen's grades are on average 4-8 points lower than their Anderson peers in World Language.
- The younger students in Pre-AP, AP and IB classes often lack the cognitive development due to their age to process and navigate the fast paced, rigorous classes in comparison to the older students.
- AP and IB topics and themes in the World Language classroom often are too mature for the younger students and they often have difficulties navigating these fast paced, rigorous college level classes in comparison to their peers.
- The IB diploma program requires that students take a world language throughout high school, because IB testing cannot occur until junior or senior year. Even though this information is widely distributed, it is easy for students and parents to overlook due to the sheer amount of information in regards to high school that is distributed and when the mistake has been realized it is too late and the IB diploma program is unfortunately no longer available to those students.
- Students often will unknowingly put themselves at a disadvantage by not continuing with a World Language after fulfilling the state requirements of 2 high school credits; however, colleges often look for at least 3 years of a World Language.

With these observations in mind, the Anderson High School Vertical Team feels that a change to the middle school World Language Program will produce more confident and proficient language learners who will have more opportunities in high school and beyond high school while facing less pressure and stress at such a crucial point in their development.

After multiple conversations with staff and parents, Murchison has decided that the 6th grade World Language classes will be for middle school credit only, not high school credit. Students will still take the foreign language that they selected on their choice sheet for 6th grade.

Below is a breakdown of Murchison's new levels for World Languages classes. Please note that this decision will only affect incoming 6th graders next year.

- 6th Grade – Foundations (Middle School Credit)
- 7th Grade – Level 1A (.5 High School Credit)
- 8th Grade – Level 1B (.5 High School Credit)

This change will take effect in the Fall 2019. Please reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns. We are excited that your child will be joining our campus in the Fall! Go Mats!

Sincerely,

Beth Newton

Interim Principal

Murchison Middle School

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