

PTSA ACADEMIC BOOSTER PROGRAM NOTES

Lorenzo Rubio, World Languages Department Chair

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Mr. Rubio is the new chair of the World Languages Department, a District 205 teacher with 7 years of experience in both Social Studies EL and World Language.

Refer to [this presentation](#) from 8th grade Transitions Night throughout this document.

- **Seal of Biliteracy** - York uses the [AAPPL](#) test in Spanish, French, Chinese and Italian to measure proficiency. Test is offered 2x/year, in September and January, and must score intermediate high on all 4 modules: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Test may be taken multiple times and only need to repeat modules that haven't been passed. Cost for test is \$20, but can also register to only take portions of the test for \$5-10.
- Spanish is the most common native language spoken in homes with Polish being second. Seal of Biliteracy is available for Polish using the STAMP test, with the main difference being that the entire test must be repeated until all 4 modules are passed.
- Approximately 200 hundred students take the test per year with an exceptional pass rate.
- Students may take the test at any grade level, but is most appropriate for students in level 3 or 3h and higher. Proficiency in language can be reached from either level.
- Some colleges are starting to give college credit for the Seal of Biliteracy. You would need to check with each individual college. Visit [State University Foreign Language Requirements](#) and [State Laws](#) for additional details.
- **Middle School Language** - Students will be given the choice of taking 0, 1, or 2 years of Spanish or French in middle school. Please see link for pathways. High school language placement will be recommended by teachers and should be carefully considered by parents and students depending on desired rigor, years of high school language wanted and whether more challenging language courses with honors, AP or ACP are to be completed. Students who would like to be considered for the National World Language Honor Society also have special requirements.
- When choosing between regular and honors language classes consider the following with honors classes:
 - Pathway to dual credit
 - Preparation for AP
 - Seal of Biliteracy opportunities
 - Honor society opportunities
 - Expectation of independence
 - Honors credit
- Refer to pages 21-23 of [this presentation](#) for an example comparison of regular vs. honors language instruction

- **Focus on Relevance** - The district continues with its shift away from text book use in language classes, focusing on the use of current, authentic media and conversational based learning. The World Languages department has a rule directing that 90% of instruction in the language being taught in that language.
- Student enrollment in world languages remains high in our district, while other districts have been seeing a decreasing trend in enrollment in world languages.

We are the only school in Illinois to offer dual credit ACP in Italian. ACP courses require that the teacher have a graduate degree in their language, so York is well-positioned to offer these courses

- If new language offerings were to be considered, American Sign Language (ASL), one of the fastest growing languages, is an option. Arabic was also came up as a language of potential interest.
- If a student starts a language at level 3 as a freshman, they may experience difficulty going from level 3 to 4H in the next year, due to the difference in how the 3/3H courses are taught (bearing in mind that 3H is a college curriculum from Indiana University). Additionally, if they take a 3H/ACP language as a freshman, there may not be a course pathway for them in their senior year.
- Dual credit/ACP is only granted by Indiana University to sophomores and above. Therefore, taking language 3H as a freshman should be evaluated with this in mind.
- 6th grade decisions will affect high school trajectories and require careful explanations to ensure parents and students understand how the course selection puzzle pieces fit together.