

Assessment

Students will be assessed through oral and written activities.



Homework assignments will give students an opportunity to practice skills and concepts to receive specific feedback. Students are taught mnemonics devices and strategies to perform tasks. Whole class practice as well as cooperative learning groups will be used on a regular basis to provide students with the opportunity to perfect the skills before individual assessments take place. Independent projects will be constructed and graded based on a task rubric (*Design Cycle Project*). Students are assessed on Unit tests and County Final Exams A and B.



The Silver Spring International Middle School

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Foreign Language Immersion

at

The Silver Spring Inter-
national Middle School



Gateway

to Our World...

Program Goals



To meet program goals, our school is committed to raising

awareness for our students of their role in an ever-expanding international arena.

By nature, a foreign language provides the ability to communicate in a different language and enables one to access the world by meeting new people, by gaining new ideas, by encountering new cultures and making new experiences. The skills developed in an immersion classroom are of great value in interpersonal relationships, education, business and travel.

The intercultural awareness will be provided specifically first, through the study of MCPS topics which requires making connections to world history. Secondly, through the international novels used to explore the prescribed themes. Finally, the internationalism will also be addressed through the reading of world magazines and subsequent discussions on international events.

Placement

Taught in the target languages of French or Spanish, immersion courses focus on continuing the language skill development that students received in the Immersion Program in the elementary school. Students who have not come from an immersion elementary program may be accepted into immersion classes if they demonstrate language fluency through a series of placement tests.

Structure

Immersion classes are structured along the same thematic units as those in the English curriculum, incorporating appropriate literature in the target language.

In addition, students are exposed to the themes of the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning, often referred to as the five C's: *Communities, Communication, Connection, Culture and Comparison*. The purpose of immersion courses of study are to establish and build student capacity in four skill areas: *speaking, writing, listening and reading*. As a school that offers all

students the International Baccalaureate Middle School Programme, MYP areas of interaction will be explored specifically through the study of the prescribed themes.

The Silver Spring International Middle School delivers instruction in an eight period block format that features alternating even and odd days. In this format, immersion classes meet twice for language arts instruction in the target language and once for instruction in social studies, also delivered in the target language. Like the language arts classes, immersion social studies classes deliver the same content as their English language counterparts.

High School Credit

Immersion courses are presented as high school level classes and students are granted credit while in middle school for successful mastery of the content.