



January 16, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In alignment with the District Strategic Plan, starting in 2013/2014 Westerly Public Schools students in grades 1-4 will be given the opportunity to take a world language that they may continue to pursue through high school. At Westerly Public Schools we are dedicated to your child becoming multilingual and globally aware and understand that you, as the parent/guardian, are critical to your child's success. We are conducting a survey to select the language that we will offer beginning in the 2013/2014 school year. The languages under consideration are French, Italian, Mandarin and Spanish. We would like your feedback on which languages you are most eager for your child to learn. **Please complete the survey on the back of this letter and return it to your child's teacher by Tuesday, January 22, 2013.** This survey is also available on the web at <http://westerly.k12.ri.us> under the left tab entitled *Strategic Planning*.

The languages under consideration were selected for several reasons.

- **Spanish** is offered because it is a language that one encounters frequently in many parts of the United States as well as other parts of the world. In the fields of medicine, business and all aspects of the service industry, the ability to communicate in Spanish is necessary. In addition, Spanish is offered at Westerly High school.
- **Italian** is offered because in Rhode Island this language is part of our history and culture. Furthermore, Italy is a world leader in the arts, mechanics and construction. Knowledge of Italian is also essential for the study of other fields like history, literature, music, art, business, economics, political science, and literature. In addition, Italian is offered at Westerly High School.
- **French** is offered as it is the official working language of many global organizations. Students who are interested in the arts, the study of literature, or international diplomacy will find particular value in knowing French. Additionally, French is offered at Westerly High School.
- **Mandarin** is offered because it is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and is considered a critical language of the future. Fluency in Mandarin Chinese is highly recognized to provide advantages in higher education, the global economic workforce and national security efforts. Additionally, our district is affiliated with the Confucius Institute at Bryant University and currently provides Chinese language and culture enrichment opportunities for students through the Confucius Classroom located at Tower Street Community Center.

Because the language selection will impact staffing decisions, it is very important that we know, sooner rather than later, your choice. Again, we ask that you please return this survey to your child's teacher by Tuesday, January 22, 2013.

If you have any questions please contact Alicia Storey, Assistant Superintendent at [astorey@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:astorey@westerly.k12.ri.us) or Sarah Steverman, World Language Department Chair, at [ssteverman@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:ssteverman@westerly.k12.ri.us) or 401-315-1566.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Roy M. Seitsinger Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent  
Alicia Storey, Assistant Superintendent  
Sarah Steverman, World Language Department Chair

*"A place where learning has no limits and academic excellence is measured one student at a time."*

T: 401-348-2700 F: 401-348-2707 TT/VOICE 800-RI-55555 [www.westerly.k12.ri.us](http://www.westerly.k12.ri.us)

It is the policy of Westerly Public Schools not to discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies on the basis of age, color, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. If special accommodations are needed call 348-2700, 48 hours in advance.

## WORLD LANGUAGE SURVEY FORM (ELEMENTARY)

In accordance with the District Strategic Plan and in an effort to ensure that our students are well prepared to succeed in a globalized world and workforce, Westerly Public Schools is reviewing its world language offering, and considering adding optional world language for elementary students. Westerly Public World Language Committee is conducting this interest survey to gather feedback about which languages you are most eager for your child to learn.

**Please Number 1-4 (one being first choice and 4 being last choice) which languages you would like offered. Feel free to list your reasoning on the reverse of this document. All feedback is greatly appreciated.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **MANDARIN CHINESE**

\_\_\_\_\_ **FRENCH**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ITALIAN**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPANISH**

\_\_\_\_\_ **OTHER: Please specify** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER BY**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013.**