

May 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know about an academic opportunity for your student. Each year, we have a group of students who will benefit from additional English language study in order to solidify skills. In order to meet this need, this year we added an English class in Grade 6 that met daily as an alternative to the introduction to world language course. Students in this small class focused on reading skills and comprehension, along with writing in response to reading, vocabulary, and grammar. Students worked on additional English novels, separate from the ones they also read in their regular English class. The goal of this new class is to continue to solidify and strengthen students' underlying foundational reading skills, and prepare them to tackle grades 7 and 8 with more independence. Happily, we are able to offer this class again next year, and you are receiving this letter because your child's teachers and I feel he or she would benefit from taking it.

This additional English class, which we fondly call "Double English" will be taught by Wendy Tsoutsos with support from Beth Connors. It meets at the same time that the introduction to Spanish/Latin class is meeting. Part of the Language skills class is spent on English vocabulary; this vocabulary would be covered in Double English. While these students will not take the overview of Spanish and Latin in Grade 6, students are expected to choose a language and enter it at Grade 7, where languages start at an introductory level. Our hope is that the additional year of skill development and practice in English language skills will leave them even more ready to master a world language in Grade 7.

As we feel that your child would benefit from taking this additional English period, and I'd like to arrange a time to discuss this option with you by phone or in person. In making this determination, ERB scores, prior testing, and classroom performance are some of the factors that we considered when thinking about who would benefit most from the experience. We plan to keep the class size to less than ten students.

As this is an addition to the curriculum, there is a fee associated with taking this class which will meet five times per week. If it were billed at a 1-1 tutoring rate, it would cost over \$2,000 per month. We plan for this

additional English class at a cost of \$3000 for the year. It is our hope (and goal) that by participating in this class, students may need less support from an outside tutor. If you are receiving financial aid or if you feel this cost is not accessible for you, please speak to Bob Santry in the Business Office and we will work to make this class an option for your child.

I will be in touch in the near future to discuss this class for next year. Please also feel free to reach out to me. My direct line is 781-915-2549 and my email is bconners@dcds.net. I am delighted that we are again able to offer this course, since I'm confident it will support students well and put them on even more solid footing as they head into the academic rigors of middle and high school.

Warm Regards,

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