

Why start studying a world language at the elementary level?

- ◆ When children have an early start to a long sequence of language instruction that continues through high school and college, they will be able to achieve levels of proficiency that have not been possible in the past due to the late start of most language programs. (Center for Applied Linguistics)
- ◆ Research has shown that young children learn languages more easily and more quickly than older students and that proficiency in a language and the cultures in which it is spoken can best be achieved when second language study begins as early as possible. (AATF K-12 Position Statement)
- ◆ Children who receive regular, systematic second language instruction in the elementary grades perform better in their native languages and in school overall, develop greater problem-solving skills, become more creative, and achieve a greater understanding of their own and other cultures.
- ◆ Children who study second languages have expanded career opportunities as adults.

The benefits to society are many. Americans fluent in other languages improve global communication, enhance our competitiveness abroad, and maintain our political and security interests. (U.S. General Accounting Office, 2002)

The Marlborough Public School system is proud to provide a world language program based on a widely used and successful model:

Sequential, Content- Based

FLES

(Foreign Language in the Elementary School)

FLES Program Goals

- ◆ To develop functional proficiency in Spanish at an early stage of language acquisition in order to communicate and understand basic information in familiar situations.
- ◆ To provide a meaningful context for developing communication skills in Spanish.
- ◆ To build an understanding and appreciation for other cultures by developing multicultural awareness and a more global perspective.
- ◆ To increase interest in future language study.

FLES Program Learning Targets

After completing the K-6 sequence, students are expected to perform at the Novice Level of proficiency, as established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Students at the Novice Level:

- Understand short, simple phrases, sentences and directions.
- Engage in simple conversations about familiar topics.
- Speak and write in short sentences using memorized vocabulary and language.
- Read and understand brief texts on familiar material when supported by visual cues.

What does FLES look like in Marlborough?

The Marlborough Public Schools Spanish program is designed to motivate, inspire and challenge students to become contributing members of a global society.

Our students will embrace learning the skills necessary for effective communication and cultural awareness.

All students grades 1-6 have the opportunity to develop and maintain Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness within the context of culture and the mainstream curriculum, enhancing opportunities for cross-curricular connections.

The rigorous curriculum is aligned with state and national standards, designed and implemented by FLES Certified language teachers 15 minutes daily.

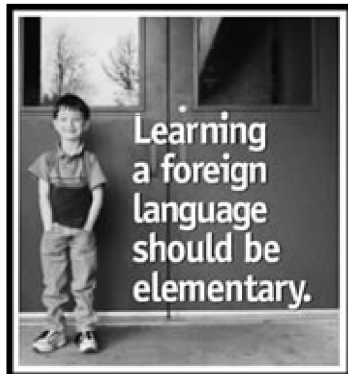
The methodology is developmentally appropriate and engages students in a dynamic process for learning the target language.



Quotes from Marlborough students when asked:

"What do you like about Spanish?"

- ◆ Learning new things so I can talk to my relatives that are Spanish.
- ◆ I like how I get to learn Spanish in a different way or approach.
- ◆ I like how you make it fun, when we learn by playing games.
- ◆ I like how Señora gives us hints and props for role-playing.
- ◆ I like the cart and the things on it. It helps one to understand what you are saying.
- ◆ I like that we have visuals that help us learn.
- ◆ Hands on activities
- ◆ We sing fun songs, they help me remember Spanish words and are catchy and use movements.
- ◆ I am learning about things that pertain to my life.
- ◆ I like working with partners (to practice the skills).
- ◆ Interactive



Marlborough Public Schools

Spanish Program

Teachers:

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Please visit our Spanish classroom page on the Marlborough Elementary School website:

http://www.marlborough.k12.ct.us/pages/Marlborough_School_District

Resources for Early Foreign Language Learning: Advocates for Language Learning

P.O. Box 4962
Culver City, CA 90231
Phone: 310.313.3333

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

E-mail: actfhq@aol.com
Web: <http://www.gannettinfinet/~actfl>

ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics

Toll free: 800.276.9834
E-mail: eric@cal.org
Web: <http://www.cal.org/ericcl>

National Network for Early Language Learning Center for Applied Linguistics

Phone: 202.429.9292
Web: <http://www.cal.org>

Arlington Public Schools, Arlington VA
Prince William County Public Schools, Manassas, VA

Marlborough Public Schools Spanish Program

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