September, 2018

“We acquire language when we understand messages;

when we understand what people tell us and when we understand what we read.”

*—Dr. Stephen Krashen*

Dear parents,

In class this year, your child will

* read in Spanish (upper grades)
* listen in Spanish
* respond as able using signals at first, then words in Spanish, then phrases.

Your child will not

* memorize vocabulary lists
* practice verb conjugations
* learn about Spanish in English.

The resources I use include stories, songs, art, images, legends, short authentic videos, and games.

* Language and culture: We use the language to explore our cultures, Spanish-speaking cultures, and world cultures.
* Real world preparation: We use useful language in the class so that we are prepared to communicate in the real world.
* Student centered: We center our interactions on what each student needs, knows, and can do now and what each student needs in order to move forward.

This is the fifth year of World Language classes at Richmond Elementary School! For those families new to the district, I will be meeting with your children in small groups to help them become comfortable in class. I will send an invitation to attend before school extra help. The other students will also serve as interpreters. That is fun to watch. Students in grade 4 will be covering the fourth grade curriculum for the first time. This includes reading a story that takes place in the rainforest of Ecuador. Through the story we will explore the water cycle, geography of South America and what it means to be good friends, even when someone is different from us!

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any concerns and I love it when you share how your children are using their language outside of the classroom. You may click on my name below to send me an email. Our [World Language](http://charihoelementaryspanish.weebly.com/) website also has resources that you may want to access, including some of the songs we sing in class.

Hasta pronto,

Señora Gendreau