**ATTENTION 7TH GRADERS AND PARENTS!**

It is once again that time of year when students in “Maimolandía” begin to consider signing up for Arabic or Spanish courses. **Eighth grade is the most important time to enroll in a third language** at Maimonides, as students who do not start Arabic or Spanish in this grade will not be able to start in another grade in the future. In eighth grade, world language classes meet three times each week, during eighth period (the last class of the day).

The curriculae in both Spanish and Arabic are rich and varied; they are specifically designed for the students to learn by having fun, but do require minimal work outside of class (homework and studying for small quizzes, for example). Students are exposed to an array of resources and experiences: online, interactive, and paired activities, skits and dramatizations, games and songs, cultural enrichment, and more. In learning a world language, our students also have the opportunity to participate in different national contests during World Language Week, discover new worlds, “get an insider’s view” of another culture, and develop a new view of their own. Being proficient in an additional language will help your child live and work in the global economy of the twenty-first century.

The time to make world language selections for the 2015-2016 academic year is after Pesach. World language classes are electives; and five years of instruction are available, to take each child through their senior year. Please be on the look-out for a letter and form that will be sent home after Pesach!

**On Tuesday, March 31st, during lunch**, all seventh graders will eat lunch in the art room (where they will also be provided with a supplement of chips, salsa, hummus, pita bread, and guacamole) to see and hear older students present skits and projects and talk about their current Arabic and Spanish courses. This is also a time when students will meet the language instructors and will have the opportunity to ask questions about the program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ryan, World Languages Department head, at dryan@maimonides.org or 617-232-4452 x123.