



sponge

## **Mercer Island School District 2015-2016 Academic Year Language Program**

We are very excited to bring language to Mercer Island elementary schools! Our classes are designed to instill a love of language and culture in children. Our highly trained, dynamic, native-speaking teachers lead small classes in fun activities in the target language – Mandarin, Spanish or French – with a focus on communicating. It's a natural way to engage and learn.

### **GOALS:**

We developed the Sponge program with 3 main goals for our students:

1. Building communication skills
2. Developing language-learning strategies
3. Broadening their understanding of the world

### **CLASSES:**

Through games and activities, music, movement and art, we learn practical, every-day language and communication skills. All classes are taught primarily in the target language and accommodate a range of levels. Each session we cover different thematic units, so there is always new material to learn. Classes are one hour long and offered before school and after school on early release day.

**For K-2<sup>nd</sup> Graders:** We welcome brand new learners as well as those with language learning experience.

**For 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Class is appropriate for children who are new to the language or who want to solidify their communication skills. There will be lots of new material for everyone.

**For 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders – Intermediate:** Children who have had previous exposure to the target language and are confident communicators should choose Intermediate.

## **LOCATIONS:**

We offer class options at each school and offer additional flexibility through busing. (Classes may be consolidated to meet minimum enrollment numbers.)

In the morning, busing is available from all schools to your student's home school.

Detailed information on room location will be sent the week prior to classes beginning once we have received the information from the schools.

## **SCHEDULE:**

Our academic year program begins on October 5 and runs through May 20, 2015. Classes are held only on days when school is held. **Please note: there are no classes the week of Thanksgiving.**

## **SIGNING UP:**

You can enroll online on our website! Go to [www.spongeschool.com/sign-up](http://www.spongeschool.com/sign-up) and click the Elementary Registration button. We're using a new registration provider this year, so you'll need to create a new account.

Details about pricing and our flexible payment plans are available online through our registration system – [www.campscui.active.com/orgs/Sponge](http://www.campscui.active.com/orgs/Sponge).

## **PARENT ORIENTATION:**

In October, we will host an evening orientation for parents on Mercer Island. We'll be going over the goals of the program and what your students can expect. Fun demos included – we hope to see you there! Stay tuned for details in your PTSA newsletter.



## **Schedule – Island Park**

### K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

French Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

French Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am

### K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Spanish Wednesday 2:00 pm

Spanish Friday 8:00 am

**For additional options, see the Lakeridge & West Mercer schedule and consider busing your student.**



## **Schedule – Lakeridge**

### K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

Spanish Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am  
Spanish Wednesday 2:00 pm

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Spanish Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am  
Spanish Wednesday 2:00 pm

### K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Mandarin Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am

**For additional options, see the Island Park & West Mercer schedule and consider busing your student.**



## **Schedule – West Mercer**

### K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

Spanish Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

French Friday 8:00 am  
Spanish – Intermediate Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am

### K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Mandarin Monday & Friday 8:00 am

**For additional options, see the Island Park & Lakeridge schedule and consider busing your student.**