



John Stanford International School

4057 5th AVE NE
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 252-6080

May 31, 2011

Dear Parents of Incoming Kindergarteners,

Welcome to John Stanford International School! We are very excited to have your child and family joining our school community this coming fall. Your child is about to embark on an incredible learning journey. We know that the elementary years of school are critical to building a strong foundation for one's future. Thus, at JSIS, we strive to provide that foundation for your child through rigorous academics, the learning of more than one language, access to a curriculum that reflects the interconnectedness of our global society, and a focus on respect, kindness, compassion and inclusion.

In this packet, you will find important and time-sensitive information regarding selecting a language, sign-ups for our optional summer language camp, and upcoming events:

1. The Language Selection Process

If you would like input into which language your child learns at JSIS, you must fill out the attached Language Selection Input Form and **return it by mail or in person to the school. Forms must be received by the school by Wednesday, June 8.** On that form, there are places to indicate 1) if your child speaks one of the two languages already, 2) whether or not your child has a sibling who is currently at JSIS or who has been through the JSIS immersion program, and 3) what your language preference is. The two languages offered at JSIS are Japanese and Spanish. For the 2011 – 2012 school year, there will be 2 Spanish and 2 Japanese classes. In this process, priority is first given to students in the following order: 1) fluent speakers of the language, 2) siblings, 3) lottery.

Fluent speaker: If your student speaks Spanish or Japanese fluently, **please call the office at 252-6080 to sign them up for a language interview with a teacher** to verify the student's language fluency. The language fluency interview, which assesses the students' ability to have a conversation in the target language, will take place between now and June 8.

Sibling at JSIS: If you would like your child in the same language as a sibling currently at JSIS or who has gone through JSIS' language immersion program, please note that in the appropriate area on the form. If you would like your child in a language different from an older sibling, your child will be entered into the lottery.

Lottery: We will randomly draw the remaining input forms and then place students based on the preference stated on the form while maintaining gender balance between classes. We will have members of the JSIS Building Leadership Team conduct the language selection process by Friday, June 10. Language assignments will be posted in the main office on Monday, June 13. If you have any questions about the process, please call Chris Nielsen or Jane Petrich at 206.252.6080.

2. Summer Language Camp Sign Up

Once your child is assigned to a language, you can sign your child up for our summer language camp which is happening June 27 through July 1 from 9-12 each day. A language camp sign-up

form is attached. The cost for camp is \$100. Language camp is a fun and low-risk way of getting to know the school, the teachers, and the language! Students do arts and crafts, cook, play and learn songs and phrases in Japanese and Spanish.

3. Paying for All-Day Kindergarten (Pay for K)

In Washington State, kindergarten is only funded as a half-day program. For families interested in all-day kindergarten, they must pay a fee (Pay for K). The district is charging \$237/month for 2011-12. Please note that all day kindergarten is the only option at JSIS because of the nature of our language immersion program. For more information, go to: www.seattleschools.org. Click “Enrollment”, and then click on “Kindergarten Information” under “I need to know more about...”

4. Upcoming Events

Upcoming events are always posted on our website, www.jsisweb.com. You can also receive up-to-date information by e-mail if you check the box under the e-mail address line on the input form. The following are dates of importance that you may want to add to your calendars:

Wed. June 8	Language Selection Input Forms Due @ JSIS (not just postmarked by this date)
Now through June 8	Language Interviews for potential fluent speakers
Monday, June 13	Language Assignments posted at school.
June 13	Summer Language Camp Registration begins for incoming K's. Space is limited. Please send in forms and payments early. Cost is \$100.
June 21	Last day of 2010 – 2011 school year
June 27 – July 1	Summer Language Camp (students and families meet in the cafeteria at 9:00 AM on the first day)
Wednesday, Aug. 31	Kindergarten Orientation Night for Families & Students (6:30 in the cafeteria)
September 7	First Day of School

If you have any questions about next year or about the language selection process, please talk with Chris or Jane in the main office at 206.252.6080. Congratulations on this milestone of having your precious child entering kindergarten. I'm confident that you will find JSIS to be a wonderful place for your child to develop a love for learning.

Sincerely,

Kelly Aramaki
Principal