

2015-16 SY Staffing Structure Changes

Elementary Campus

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, the staffing structure for grades 3rd-5th shifted from 3 classrooms at each grade level with a lead teacher and associate teacher dedicated to each to having 4 lead teachers and 1 associate teacher at each of these grade levels. This shift--researched and decided upon by the elementary campus leadership--has allowed for flexible grouping of students across the school day and week to allow for more targeted instruction based on student needs.

At the same time, with two years of experience with this model, there is evidence that, developmentally, 3rd grade students are not quite ready for such a shift coming from their 2nd grade year. Therefore, next school year, the staffing structure for 3rd grade will return to having 3 lead teachers and 3 associate teachers; the structure for 4th and 5th grade will remain the same as it has been for the past two years. This structure for 3rd grade will help those students receive the support they need in the transition from lower elementary grades to upper elementary grades while still allowing for flexible grouping of students to work with different teachers across the school day and week.

Middle Campus

The middle campus will return to having 2 Spanish teachers next school year with the addition of an FTE in next year's budget. This is in line with the [long-term vision for foreign language instruction at the school](#).

With 2 Spanish teachers, the expected staffing structure for 2015-16 is:

- 6th graders will be taught in smaller classes (13-14 per class). The hope is to provide students the opportunity to experience the language, many for the first time, in a smaller environment. The teachers will be able to give the students more individualized attention and encourage students to speak, read, listen and write in the target language as often as possible.
- 7th graders will be taught in a co-teaching setting (27 per class with 2 teachers). The teachers will use a variety of co-teaching models to reach the students at their levels.
- 8th graders will continue to select into a year-long elective class and will be taught by one teacher.

The frequency of Spanish classes will not change for the 2015-16 school year. If we decide to move forward with an application for the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme, we will need to rethink the frequency of Spanish for the 8th grade year as the elective option means not all students would meet the required language hours for MYP.