

FLIP: Foreign Language Introduction Program

What is FLIP?

FLIP is the Foreign Language Introduction Program organized by the Willard PTO.

FLIP aims to expose children to a world language in a fun and stimulating environment. Children in the program acquire listening skills and develop the basis for conversation. They are also exposed to the cultures of the countries in which their chosen language is spoken. FLIP offers Spanish, French, Italian, Mandarin, and Arabic.

The FLIP program is facilitated by experienced instructors who are native speakers, or have foreign language instructional backgrounds. Instructors incorporate games, songs, art projects, storytelling, and other age-appropriate teaching methods. English is used as little as possible.

Various foreign language materials and educational literature are carefully selected by each instructor and are included in the class fee. Instructional materials are rotated to ensure that students do not receive the same curriculum within a language level. In the spring, students will perform in Willard's International Fest, giving families an opportunity to enjoy some of their student's new skills.

Parents should expect students enrolled in FLIP to engage in meaningful activities that will introduce a language and culture. Students will have the opportunity to get a head start by being exposed to language instruction. They will gain a basic familiarity of the sound and accent of another language, and absorb it into their broader sense of the world. ***While students will be able to bring home vocabulary and conversational skills, fluency is not the objective of FLIP.*** To be fluent in any language, the teacher and student would require many more hours of work than this program affords.

Flip Facts

- Open to students in Grade 1-4
- Small class, limit of 12 students per class
- Registration is \$175 per student (includes materials)
- Need-based fee waivers available. Please contact Suzanne McLeese, the school Social worker at mcleeses@district90.org
- Classes meet 28 times during the school year, one day per week
- Each class is 50 minutes before school, at lunchtime, or after school
- Registration for 2019 opens on August 29, and closes at 12:00 AM September 4, 2018
- Classes will begin the week of September 9th.

SCHEDULE

WEEKLY SCHEDULE	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Before School 7:15-8:05			Spanish 3 Iris Saavedra	
			Italian 3/4 Ollie Ponzio	
Lunch 11:30-12:20	Spanish 1 Susan Charrette	Spanish 1 Susan Charrette	Spanish 2 Susan Charrette	Spanish 1 Susan Charrette
		French 3/4 Orly Slobodkin	Mandarin Jenny Chen	Spanish 2
		Arabic Myrna Alaraj		French 1/2 Myrna Alaraj
				French 3/4 Orly Slobodkin
				Italian 1/2 Ollie Ponzio
After School 3:15-4:05			Spanish 3 Iris Saavedra	

Choosing a Language

FLIP is designed to introduce the fundamentals of foreign language and cultural awareness. Which language you choose for your child is up to you, however, you may want to consider the following:

- The FLIP program includes the three languages taught at Roosevelt Middle School— Spanish, French, and Italian. Mandarin and Arabic are not offered at Roosevelt, although Mandarin is offered at Oak Park River Forest High School.
- Students may want an introduction to the language they will learn in middle and high school, or
- Your student may decide to choose different languages in different years in the FLIP program, thereby sampling and gaining insights into each. This gives students a chance to see which languages interest them most while still in elementary school.

Before You Register

- Choose a class that your child will stick with for the duration of the school year.
- Talk to your child about recess—please do not surprise a student with the fact that they will miss recess if registered for a lunchtime FLIP class. This leads to tears!
- Take into consideration of your student's need for gross motor at lunchtime. There are one, two, or three levels of each language. It's perfectly acceptable for a child to begin FLIP in 2nd, 3rd or even 4th grade.
- Talk to your student about any clubs in which they want to participate, like Kindly Wizards, Journalism, Coding Club, and more. These opportunities are posted during the first few weeks of school on the bulletin board inside the main entrance. Once registered for a FLIP class, we cannot guarantee students can to a different class.

Please note that if a class doesn't fill, students will be moved to an equivalent class, however, if this time does not work for your family, you can choose to remove your student from the program. If you register your child for an after-school class, please understand it is your responsibility to be prompt when picking your child up after FLIP.

If behavioral issues or tardiness persist, whether on the part of either the child getting to class or the parent collecting their child following after-school classes, we will have to remove your child from FLIP and you will forfeit your payment.

All parents registering for FLIP are required to read and accept the FLIP Code of Conduct & FLIP Allergen-Free and Nut-Free Policy.

For More Information, please email Genevieve Jones and Stephanie VanDerSchie at willardflip@gmail.com.