



Citizens For Education



Summer Issue Preview

May 2016

The objectives of Citizens For Education are to ensure a quality education for all students of the Council Rock School District, to better inform the Council Rock community of educational issues, and to increase the involvement of the community in the decision making processes affecting the quality of education in Council Rock.

Citizens For Education fully supports World Language Education in Council Rock, and is asking Council Rock to reinstate a 7th Grade Exploratory World Languages offering similar to what was in place pre-2002, when the middle schools were junior high schools:

- Exploratory World Languages is a self-contained interdisciplinary course designed to introduce students to a variety of languages and cultures. Except for the foreign language component, the courses (which could mirror the four languages offered at the high school: French, German, Latin and Spanish) are taught in English. The culture and language studied could change with each marking period.
- Offering Exploratory World Languages in 7th grade will give students valuable experiences in global awareness and better inform their language decision in 8th grade, thus helping students to be more successful in the language study of their choice.
- Offering Exploratory World Languages in 7th grade will help foreign language study be a more robust part of Council Rock's profile.
- Based on standardized testing in grades 3 through 6, students who are already testing at Proficient or Advanced reading levels should have the opportunity to participate in Exploratory World Languages in 7th Grade as an alternative to Literacy Learning 7 (hereafter referred to by its more common name, Reading). Historically 75 to 80% of 7th graders take both English and Reading. The remaining students take English and a Literacy Skills 7 class that would still be available to all students needing reading and/or writing support.
- After some start-up cost in the initial year, there will be NO additional expense to the district to offer Exploratory World Languages. There would simply be a shift of instructional expenditures from reading instruction to world language instruction – a shift from the cost for reading materials to the cost for Exploratory World Language materials. The program is therefore cost neutral and would be beneficial to the students and to Council Rock's reputation as a premier school district.
- Offering Exploratory World Languages in 2018, when the two middle schools open to a redistricted, more equalized population, would make it even more affordable, since scaling back to two rather than three schools will achieve economies of scale in most 7th grade classes.
- Using the 2017 school year to pilot a new Exploratory World Languages program, and the 2018 school year to reinstate it, allows the district time to make any necessary staffing adjustments for the program. These staffing changes could be made concurrent with the changes necessitated by the consolidation of the middle schools.

Citizens For Education intends to keep the community informed on the status of World Language offerings in CR. CFE will publish three articles on World Language Education in Spring 2016.

To receive additional CR information, send your email address to: CitizensForEducationCR@gmail.com

Citizens For Education is interested in your opinion and feedback—please feel free to contact us at:
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