Re: Dual Immersion

TCSD Families**,**

Thank you for sharing your perspectives and ideas about high school opportunities for students in the Dual Immersion Program. I appreciate your commitment to students' continued language learning, cultural understanding, and connection to the community.

Supporting students in the Dual Immersion Program is important to me professionally and personally. My daughter, Zoe Crisp, was part of the program's first student cohort and graduated from JHHS in 2021. The knowledge and skills she gained continue to serve her today. She uses Spanish daily in her work as a medical technician at a hospital. She will start nursing school in January!

I hear several consistent concerns in the messages from families. You want students who have studied Spanish through the Dual Immersion Program to have meaningful opportunities to continue advancing in grades 11 and 12, including access to rigorous, credit-bearing coursework. You have also raised concerns about how changes in course offerings affect students' ability to follow a coherent language pathway through graduation. More broadly, you want the program to support the bilingual and biliterate goals families have committed to, while giving students opportunities to deepen their cultural knowledge and use Spanish in meaningful ways.

For clarity, Jackson Hole High School currently offers Spanish 1–4, Spanish Language Arts (dual/concurrent), AP Spanish Language (dual/concurrent), and Spanish Language and Culture through Art. The Art course is popular, with three sections offered. Through our partnership with Central Wyoming College, students can earn college credit. Many Dual Immersion students graduate from JHHS with 12 or more world language college credits that transfer to most colleges and universities. AP Spanish Literature is not being offered this year because three students expressed interest. It will be included as an option during next February's course forecasting.

Course offerings and student choices can vary from year to year. Some students who enter high school with advanced language credit choose other advanced courses after completing three or four years of language study. Students may also request approval to take advanced language courses online or during the summer when those courses are not offered in-house. Together with French, JHHS offers 11 world language courses.

We will continue exploring additional courses and work-based learning opportunities in the community to support students.

Your outreach comes as the district is already establishing a Dual Immersion Advisory Committee. The committee will review the program's short- and long-term student learning goals. A key part of that review will be how to maintain and increase the number of students earning the Seal of Biliteracy, while providing

opportunities at every grade level to continue developing language skills. These skills should serve students in academic settings, their communities and homes, and future academic study.

Sandra Sanderson (ssanderson@tcsd.org), our K–12 Director of Multilanguage, is leading this work and will serve as the committee's point person. Family perspectives, along with input from students and staff, will inform the review.

I am committed to TCSD's ongoing review of its programs to identify ways to improve, innovate, and strengthen students' learning experiences. Dual immersion is part of that work. Thank you for bringing these concerns and ideas forward and for your continued commitment to the program.

Best,
Scott

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