

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #219 (2001-2002)

March 11, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF WORLD LANGUAGES COURSES:
TLINGIT, LATIN III AND IV, ADVANCED PLACEMENT
SPANISH LITERATURE, AND PACESETTER'S SPANISH

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following courses: Tlingit, Latin III and IV, Advanced Placement Spanish Literature, and Pacesetter's Spanish. The descriptions for these courses are attached.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Tlingit language course (Attachment A) will provide an opportunity for students to learn one of the 22 languages indigenous to Alaska. Currently, only Yupik is offered. Tlingit is the language spoken by the native people of Southeast Alaska. Through the study of the Tlingit language and culture, students will develop a deeper appreciation for, and an understanding of, Alaska's diverse and unique population. This course will be used as a foundation for a culturally responsive curriculum.

The number of students studying Spanish has greatly increased over the last decade in the District and across the United States. Locally, there are several factors which contribute to this steady rise in enrollment. The District's two year middle school Spanish elective programs are preparing more students to enroll in higher level Spanish courses at the high school. The two Spanish partial immersion programs, which began in the early 1990's, are now matriculating students to both the middle and high schools. Additionally, the Hispanic student population, including native speakers of Spanish, has also experienced a steady growth. The proposed courses, Advanced Placement Spanish Literature (Attachment B) and Pacesetter's Spanish (Attachment C), both provide the coursework needed for a challenging curriculum which will further develop students' language proficiency levels into the intermediate and advanced levels.

AP Spanish Literature is a course designed to prepare students for the AP Spanish Literature Exam. Pacesetter's Spanish is a course that has been developed by the College Board to encourage more native speakers of Spanish to enroll in AP level coursework. It also is curriculum that is appropriate for students who have been in immersion programs or students who are highly motivated and elect to learn Spanish at an accelerated pace.

Latin III and IV (Attachment D) are courses which continue the existing Latin I and II sequence currently offered in the District. Latin is offered at three high schools and there is a growing number of students who have expressed interest in continuing their study of Latin beyond the beginning Latin I and II levels.

CC/PM/DC/JG

Attachments

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