



# LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL

September 3, 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are excited to send this letter to inform you of the changes to the French program at Lancaster High School beginning in September of the 2019-2020 school year. We will be transitioning our curriculum, instruction, and assessments to a proficiency based model. Proficiency is the ability to use language in real world situations. This shift is based on extensive research and positive feedback from foreign language teachers across the country. Our changes will be aligned with the *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages* (ACTFL) World Readiness Standards and the up and coming new New York State World Language standards, but most importantly will allow your student the ability to use the language even more than before.

All classes will be conducted in French 90% of the time and students will be encouraged to stay in the target language according to their level of study. With support and proper instruction, students will be working to use the language in all 3 modes of communication: Interpretive (ability to read and listen), Interpersonal (conversation & writing), Presentational (writing & speaking). At the end of each unit of study students will take a summative assessment that requires them to use French in each of the three modes of communication in real world tasks and situation. The biggest change you will notice is in our gradebooks. Grading categories will primarily be skills based: *Speaking (20%), Listening (20%), Reading (20%), Writing (20%), and Practice & Citizenship (20%)*. At the end of each quarter grades will reflect what students can realistically do in the language on a daily basis.

As with any changes we are expecting that the students will need an adjustment period. We will be with them every step of the way and our classroom will promote a positive environment for second language acquisition. By the end of the school year there will be significant growth in your student's ability to speak, listen, read, write in the French language. By the time our students leave Lancaster High School they will be able to truly use French as a means of communication with us here in Lancaster and in the world beyond our borders. We invite you to visit our websites for more information on proficiency based learning. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact one or both of us. More information will be provided at **Open House on October 3, 2019**. We are looking forward to seeing students grow beyond what they ever thought they could!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marie-Ruth Augustine  
Mrs. Arlene Rivett