

29 June, 2010

To: Parents of prospective 4K students

From: Esther Miranda PhD. – Principal, SACS

Subject: **Dual Language (Spanish Immersion) Pilot Program in 4K, Katherine Ryan Program**

Parents,

We believe that an early start enables the learning of a second language at a faster pace. St. Anthony Catholic School is happy to announce the launch of a pilot dual language immersion program. For the 2010-11 school year we will offer Spanish as an immersion class in the 4K program.

There will be two sections of 4K, one led in Spanish by Mrs. Leticia Wittig, the other led in English by Mrs. Diana Manson (a veteran early childhood teacher). Mrs. Wittig will lead this new program for us, with Spanish being spoken as the primary language in her classroom. Since there will be students in the Spanish immersion class that speak limited Spanish, speak Spanish regularly at home, or speak no Spanish at all, Mrs. Wittig will teach as follows:

- Give commands and instructions throughout the day in both languages
- Teach the calendar in both languages
- Teach math in both languages
- Teach language arts in both languages (except for some letters and sounds that may be too confusing to young children)
- Teach 10 formal units in Spanish (3 weeks long) throughout the year that will cover themes such as: Greetings, Numbers, Colors, Transportation, Food, Animals, etc.

While we recognize that students in the class will continue to speak English amongst themselves during non-instructional time, the teacher will speak and encourage response in Spanish.

I write to ask your preference for your child next year. If the demand is large enough we will plan on offering Spanish in both rooms. In this case the teachers will co-teach; Mrs. Wittig will visit Mrs. Manson's room in the afternoons. We anticipate both interest and success with this program, with the goal being to extend it to one section of Kindergarten the following year, and a Spanish section at each grade level thereafter.

Please email me at emiranda@stanthony.org , or fill in and return the attached form to the front office by Friday July 09.

Please let me know if you have questions, comments or suggestions. We look forward to your participation and support.

Sincerely,

Esther Miranda, PhD.

Principal – St. Anthony Catholic School

Dual Language (Spanish Immersion) Pilot Program in 4K, Katherine Ryan Program
St. Anthony Catholic School

Name of Student: _____

Parent/Family name: _____

Preference: (Please check one.)

I prefer that my child is placed in the Spanish Immersion program with Mrs. Wittig

I prefer that my child is placed in the traditional classroom (English) with Mrs. Manson

I do not have a preference. Please place my child in either classroom to help balance the rosters

Signature: _____

Date: _____