

## The Language Selection Policy at BSMS

### Languages Other Than English (LOTE) 7-12



It is the policy of the BSMS to allow students and their parents a choice regarding which language to begin in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. At Ballston Spa we offer both French and Spanish. A letter describing the language selection process is mailed home together with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter interim reports. We ask that parents & their children have a serious discussion about which language to begin. You will be asked to make a choice by circling either FRENCH or SPANISH on the form sent home. ***This form must be returned to the middle school by the deadline.*** We will make every effort to honor your first choice, but because of class size and staffing, we may have to schedule you for your alternate choice. If you do not select a language by returning the form by the deadline, a choice will be made for you.

#### Some things to keep in mind when making your decision:

- Once you begin, you must continue with the same language in 8<sup>th</sup> grade & in high school.
- Neither language is “better” or “easier” than the other.
- There are benefits to knowing ANY other language.
- No matter which language you choose, you will be ahead of the game.
- The same curriculum (vocabulary & grammar) is taught in French & Spanish.
- Choose the language that appeals to YOU. Don’t make a choice based on what your friends are taking. You’ll do similar things and learn a lot in either language!
- Once you have passed the NYS Regents Exam in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, you can continue taking your 1<sup>st</sup> foreign language & begin another. You could be trilingual!