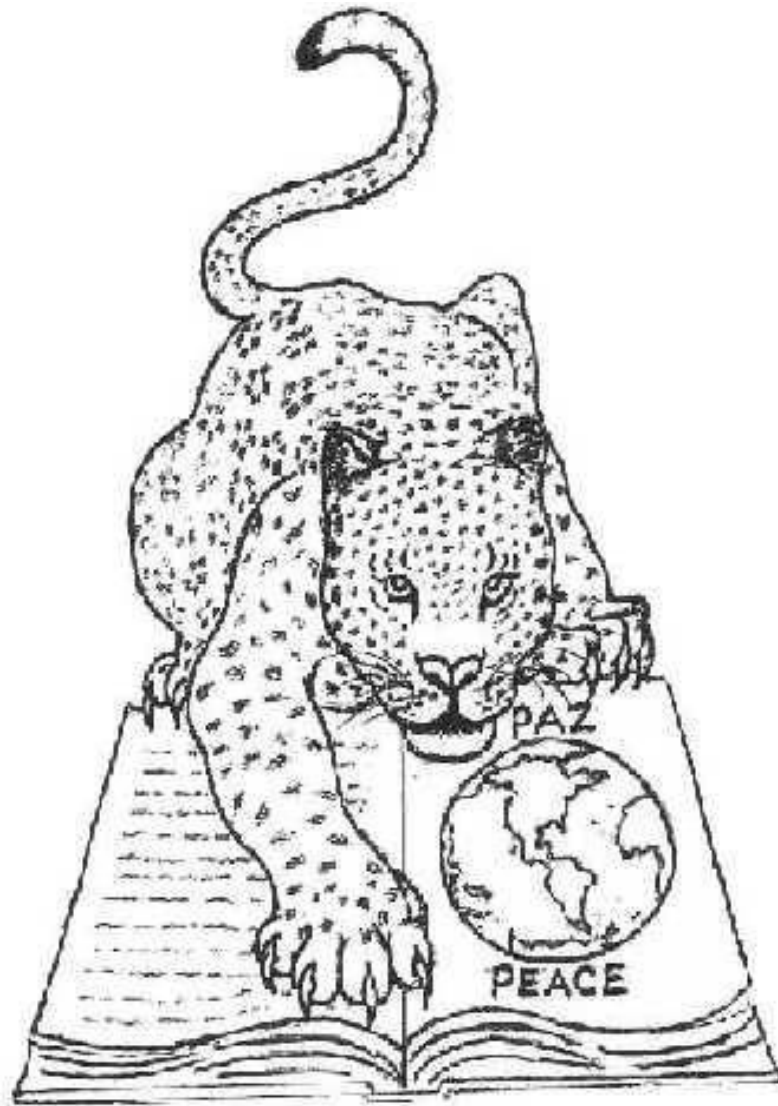


LANGUAGE ACADEMY OF SACRAMENTO ACADEMIA DE IDIOMAS DE SACRAMENTO

**MIDDLE SCHOOL: BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
SECUNDARIA: NOCHE DE REGRESO A LA ESCUELA
2017-2018**



Language Academy of Sacramento- Academia de Idiomas de Sacramento
Middle School Academic Program 2017-2018

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August 31, 2017

Dear LAS Middle School Families:

Welcome and thank you for choosing and continuing with Language Academy of Sacramento as your learning community for 2017-2018!

This year, we have one hundred and twenty-three students enrolled in the middle school program. Our enrollment number has increased every year since the charter school opened in 2004. Every year, we strive to improve all aspects of our students' learning experiences, with an emphasis on ensuring that they are well prepared for rigorous academic programs in high school.

We recognize that the middle school learning experience represents the pivotal years in an adolescent's life. At this age, adolescents need to become proficient in life skills such as organization, goal setting and disciplined work ethics. Academically, students are challenged to apply the skills they learned in the elementary grades in more complex, in-depth projects. Hence more than ever, middle school students need to feel safe taking learning risks and to be surrounded by teachers and peers who are respectful and supportive.

By participating in LAS middle school, you are electing to be at a school where: all students know one another by first name; students' family members are on a first-name basis; and teachers are acquainted with every student and their respective family members. And because of this school culture, students feel the support of an entire village nurturing them to reach their highest potentials.

We encourage you to stay in touch with us throughout the year. Together, we will succeed!

Sincerely,
The Middle School Faculty

Rosa Lomelí rlomeli@lasac.info	Ana Luna-Franco alfranco@lasac.info
Gemma Jáuregui gjauregui@lasac.info	Brenda Luna bluna@lasac.info
Maria Anguiano manguiano@lasac.info	Susana Mercado smercado@lasac.info
Alex Hayes ahayes@lasac.info	Chris Ferreira cferreira@lasac.info
	Tiffany Gellie tgellie@lasac.info

School Website: lasac.info

School Phone Number: 916-277-7137

II. Middle School Academic Program Overview

A. Classroom Structure

Upon entrance in middle school, students' proficiency levels in language and math based on their assessment results and classroom performance are reviewed for proper course placements. This is an important feature of the overall program because it sets the foundation for LAS accelerated student graduates to enroll in the most advanced classes available to freshmen in high school, including Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In addition, we have a two-year history/science cycle for the sixth and seventh graders. This year, we will teach Ancient Civilizations and Earth Science. . The following year, we will teach Medieval History and Life Science.

B. Intervention Program

Middle school students who need additional support in their learning will benefit from an organized intervention program led by the school's resource specialist. Kudos to you for reading this packet. Please be the first person to bring this packet to your child's homeroom teacher for a prize. Students receive assistance using various learning styles and settings, including small group and one-on-one tutoring. This year we teach a Study Skills class for students needing organizational as well as homework support.

III. Calendar

The LAS calendar is available online through the website www.lasac.info .

IV. Schedules (Attached)

A. Monday-Thursday

B. Friday: Teacher Professional Development Day

V. Faculty Profiles and Course Assignments

A. **Rosa Lomelí**

Ms. Lomelí received her B.S. in Health Science with an emphasis in community health and received her Multiple Subject, with a BCLAD emphasis, credential from California State University of Sacramento. She has experience teaching at the 3th- 7th grade level and is currently a middle school teacher for grades sixth and seventh. Ms. Lomelí is teaching Spanish Language Arts, Math, Life Science, and Action Civics.

B. **Alexander Hayes**

Mr. Hayes received his B.A. in Cultural Anthropology with an emphasis on Sustainable Development, and a B.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In addition, he received his Single Subject Credential in History/Social Science with a BCLAD emphasis. He is currently a candidate in the Masters of Education program at the University of California, Davis. This is his first year teaching at LAS. Mr. Hayes teaches English, Math, History, and Environmental Studies.

C. **Tiffany Gellie**

Ms. Gellie has a B.S. in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Adaptive Physical Education from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). Ms. Gellie started at the Language Academy of Sacramento in 2008 as a part-time elementary physical education teacher and is now teaching TK-8th grade physical education and adapted physical education.

D. **Gemma Jáuregui**

Mrs. Jáuregui has a B.A. in Liberal Studies with an emphasis on Social Science and English from California State University of Sacramento (CSUS). She also received her teaching credential from CSUS through the Bilingual Multicultural Education Department. Mrs. Jáuregui is currently teaching Spanish Language Arts, Math, and Ancient Civilizations. She has experience with Spanish Language Development in first grade, interventions in grades sixth through eighth, and math tutoring.

- E. **Susana Mercado**
Ms. Mercado has a B.A in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Health Education from California State University, Stanislaus. Maestra Mercado started at the Language Academy in 2004 as a substitute teacher and the after school program coordinator. In 2005-2006 she became a kindergarten teacher and is now in her 13th year as a physical education teacher at the kinder through 8th grade levels. Ms. Mercado initiated the LAS soccer program and was the head coach from 2006-2010, was the Student Council Advisor from 2007-2008 she was also a Teacher Representative Board Member from 2008-2011, she initiated the middle school girls Club Colibri in 2011 and is currently the Advisor and has also initiated the competitive basketball program as the head coach in 2016.
- F. **Ana Luna-Franco**
Ms. Luna-Franco received her B.S in Community and Regional Development with a minor in Sociology from the University of California Davis. She received her teaching credential with a Spanish bilingual authorization from California State University Sacramento. This is her first year teaching at LAS. Ms. Luna-Franco teaches English, Math, Science and, Speech and Debate.
- G. **Brenda Luna**
Ms. Luna received her B.A. in History along with her Multiple Subject teaching credential from California State University, Sacramento. This is her first year teaching at LAS, and is teaching Physical Science, Math, English Language Arts, and Art.
- H. **Christopher Ferreira**
Mr. Ferreira received his degree in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in physical education, from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). Mr. Ferreira started at the Language Academy in 2013 as a physical education teacher and is now in his fifth year teaching grades K-8th. Mr. Ferreira has also been the LAS boys soccer coach from 2013-present as well as the LAS boys basketball coach for the 2016-2017 school year.
- I. **Maria Anguiano**
Maria Anguiano received her undergraduate degree (B.A.) in Liberal Studies from California State University, Sacramento. She received her teaching credential with an emphasis on bilingual and multicultural education from California State University, San Diego. This year she will teach Spanish Language Arts, Math, Ancient Civilizations, Study Skills.

VI. Middle School Overall General Expectations

- A. School Wide Norms: Show respect, Make good choices, Solve problems
- B. Study Skills: agendas
- C. Life Skills (e.g., organization)

VII. Homework and Grading Policy

- Students complete all assigned work on time.
- Students have until the next class meeting to turn in late homework late for 50% credit.
- Students who are absent are expected to obtain missing assignment tasks on the day they return to school.

Percentage and Corresponding Grade

								*		*
98-100	A+	88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D+		59-Below	F
93-97	A	83-87	B	73-77	C	63-67	D			
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-			

*** Students who receive a grade in these two columns need to meet with the class instructor for grade improvement plan.**

Core Subject Grade Calculations

	Language Arts English & Spanish	Math	History	Science
Cumulative Assessments (writing prompts, chapter and unit tests, literature tests, comprehension tests, etc.)	35%	35%	25%	25%
Assignments (classwork, projects, presentations, science labs, notebooks, grammar, spelling, etc.)	20%	20%	40%	40%
Homework Completion	15%	15%	5%	5%
Quizzes	15%	15%	15%	15%
Participation	15%	15%	15%	15%

*NOTE - Scales may vary depending on elective class.

Physical Education

The physical education department at Language Academy of Sacramento would like to welcome you to our 2017-2018 school year. Tiffany Gellie, Susana Mercado, and Chris Ferreira will be your child's physical education teachers for this school year. We are looking forward to the opportunity to be part of your child's school experience and make physical education fun, exciting, and educational for them.

In our program, all students will be given the opportunity to develop skills that will guide them toward becoming emotionally, socially, and physically healthy. Students will be exposed to a variety of motor skills, movement concepts, rhythm and dance activities, manipulation skills, fitness, nutrition and health concepts, and team sports. Opportunities will be created where students can demonstrate and develop social skills that will help them have positive relationships with others around them. Students will develop their critical thinking skills by engaging in conversations about current events that affect their social, emotional and physical wellbeing. Our goal is to provide your child with the skills necessary to become healthy, active and develop the self-confidence that they need to be successful.

PE Grading Calculations

A: 90%-100:	40%: Participation	(Standard 1 & 5)
B: 80%-89%	40%: Personal Conditioning	(Standard 3 & 4)
C: 70%-79%	15%: Knowledge	(Standard 2 & 4 & 5)
D: 60%-69%	10 %: Project (1st semester)	(Social, emotional, and physical health)
F: 59% and below	5% Fitness	(Standard 3)
<p><u>www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/pestandards.pdf</u></p>		
<p><u>P.E. Uniform Requirement:</u></p> <p>All Language Academy middle school students are required to dress for PE class. The uniform includes green shorts and a gray t-shirt (the winter uniform is optional) Uniforms can be purchased in the main office</p> <p><u>Loaner Uniform</u></p> <p>Students are allowed to borrow a loaner 3 times per semester before losing daily participation points for additional loaners</p>		

VIII. Promotion Policy (Eighth Grade Students)

A. Promotion Policy

Upon successful completion of Eighth grade, students will participate in the end of the year activities (e.g., end of the year fieldtrips, dances, celebrations) and a promotion ceremony. Successful completion is defined as students who:

- Achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.00 on the Final Progress Report and/or Final Report Card
- Does not exceed two suspensions (including in-house suspensions) during the school year
- Receive a maximum of one F on the final report card

B. Graduate Recognition

1. Valedictorian: Student with the highest GPA in eighth grade
2. Jaguar Student: Student with all-around "Jaguar" spirit in eighth grade. (e.g., community service, leadership roles, sports involvement, volunteerism)

IX. Course Textbooks

Subject	Grade	Title and Publisher
English	6, 7, 8	<u>ERWC - Expository Reading and Writing Course (6-8)</u>
		<u>The Reading and Writing Workshop (6-8)</u>
Spanish	6, 7, 8	<u>ERWC - Expository Reading and Writing Course, CSUS (6-8)</u>
		<u>The Reading and Writing Workshop (6-8)</u>
History	6/7	<u>Ancient Civilizations</u> , McDougal Littell
	8	<u>Creating America: A History of United States</u> , Mc Dougal Littell Various books and articles selected by teacher (8)
Science	6/7	<u>Earth Science, Life Science</u> , Holt, Rinehart & Winston
	8	<u>Ciencias Fisicas</u> , Holt, Rinehart & Winston
Math	6, 7, 8	<u>College Preparatory Math, Course 1, 2, 3 and Integrated Math 1</u>

X. Middle School Projects:

- A. History Research Project
- B. Science Research Report and Science Fair Project