

We would like to make you aware of the **Lincoln-Way Spanish I Program** offered at Manhattan Junior High School. Beginning in the **2018-2019 school year**, a limited group of current 6th grade students will have the opportunity to **forgo cycle class rotations** and **commit to two full years of high school level Spanish**. In doing so, he/she will be preparing for the Lincoln-Way High School Spanish I Proficiency Exam to determine whether or not he/she can be placed into Spanish II as a freshman. Students that bypass Spanish I at Lincoln-Way and take four years of Spanish in high school can take Advanced Placement Spanish courses at Lincoln-Way and possibly earn college credit. Additionally, students' advanced language study may foster their eligibility for the State of Illinois Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy is a national initiative to recognize high school graduates who have achieved a high level of proficiency in English as well as a second language. This proficiency encompasses the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Lincoln-Way High Schools have been approved to certify students' transcripts with this special recognition.

The decision to pursue this program is an important one. As mentioned earlier, students who are accepted into this program will **NOT** have other cycle classes in their 7th or 8th grade school years (Health, Computers, Art). Additionally, Lincoln-Way Spanish II placement is not automatically earned by solely completing the Spanish I course but also incorporates teacher recommendation, Spanish grades (B average), a Spanish I Proficiency Exam score, and an overall motivation and commitment to the program. Lastly, students who are accepted into the program must commit to two full years of Spanish at MJHS and may not exit the program early.

IMPORTANT: Students do NOT earn high school credit upon completion of Spanish I at the junior high. The course simply allows him/her to place into level II as a freshman. Taking Spanish II as freshmen allows students to advance to high levels of Spanish as they continue throughout high school. Spanish III, IV, and V are honor courses. Spanish IV and V are both Advanced Placement (AP) courses. After successful completion of such courses and AP testing, students will be given opportunities to earn college credit during their junior/senior years of high school.

In order to place into Spanish II as freshmen, students must receive a recommendation from me in their eighth grade year. This recommendation will be based on students meeting the following criteria:

1. Maintain an average course grade of B (80%) or higher throughout all six trimesters of seventh and eighth grade.
2. Pass the Lincoln-Way High School Semester I Exam (administered in early December) of the eighth grade year with a score of 70% or higher.
3. Earn a Proficient rating on the Lincoln-Way High School writing assessment (administered in early December of the eighth grade year).

Students who choose not to apply or do not get accepted into this program, will not have Spanish in their 7th or 8th grade cycle class rotations but will have benefitted from the Spanish exposure class in 6th grade. Also, these students will experience other cycle rotation classes, as previously mentioned.

Please discuss the options with your child. This class is a **fast-paced, challenging, language arts-intensive course**. There are also a **limited amount of seats in the program**. As such, if your child is interested, we will utilize an identification matrix to determine eligibility. Your child's English/Language Arts (ELA) teacher is also an integral part of the decision-making process! The results will be sent home over **Spring Break in 2018**.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at JSmith@Manhattan114.org. If interested, you **MUST** fill out the attached form and return it to me or to the junior high office **NO LATER THAN December 15, 2017!** Failure to comply with this hard deadline will eliminate the opportunity for your child to be considered for the program. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Señora Smith

**Lincoln-Way Spanish I Program
Manhattan Junior High School
Program Interest Form**

***** Please return the completed form to Señora Smith or to the Manhattan Junior High office
NO LATER THAN December 15, 2017 to be considered for the program. *****

We have read the information attached and have discussed the options as they pertain to the upcoming cycle class rotations for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years at Manhattan Junior High School.

My child is interested in applying for placement in this program and understands the following, if accepted into the program:

- She/he will be committing to two full years of Spanish during his/her cycle class rotation.
- She/he will NOT be allowed to exit the program, at any time, during their 7th or 8th grade years.
- Lincoln-Way High School Spanish II placement will be based upon many factors including program completion, grades, and proficiency exam scores, teacher recommendation, and overall commitment to the curriculum.
- ****I understand that, if accepted, my child WILL NOT RECEIVE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT for Spanish I. Rather, he/she MAY be recommended for PLACEMENT into Spanish II as a freshman. (Please note that this course, if completed at the junior high, will appear on your child's high school transcript as "Spanish I (8th Grade) 0.00 Credit". Additionally, colleges and universities often view the combination of junior high Spanish I and high school Spanish II as equivalent to two years of a world language!)

Student Name: _____

ELA Teacher: _____

Advisory Teacher: _____

Today's Date: _____

Parent Signature(s): _____