

# Hamilton International Middle School



September 5, 2007

*¡Bienvenidos al nuevo año escolar!* It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2007-08 school year at Hamilton. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready for the new year! This is my second year at Hamilton; prior to that I was teaching high school Spanish to native speakers in Los Angeles.

## **Communication –The Source!**

It is part of your student's grade in my class to check the Source at least once a week. I update the Source weekly with grades, announcements, volunteer opportunities and local events. If you have not received it already, you will be mailed information about logging onto the Source.



I encourage you to contact me with concerns/questions about your student's progress. I check both my email and voicemail when I arrive at Hamilton and will respond as quickly as possible. However, I do not check email during the weekend. If you would like to set up an appointment with me or visit the classroom please contact me in advance and I am happy to set something up. It is Hamilton's policy to give teachers 24 hours notice prior to the date you would like to come.

## **Curriculum**

This year we will have two semester long units, one on Mexico and another on Spain. Within these units we will study the geography, history, demographics, economy, art, dance, festivals and traditions among other topics. The students will also have continual linguistics lessons to help them further develop their Spanish language skills.



## **Expectations Outside of Class**

Each month, I expect every immersion student to complete 15 hours of native Spanish. This could be listening to music in Spanish, watching television/movies, reading,

attending events, etc. Of the total hours, *five hours must be reading in Spanish*. My only requirements about the reading are that it is in Spanish and that you approve of what your student is reading. The students will receive a form to complete each month and *will be asking you to sign off on their outside Spanish time*.

\*\*\*\*If you speak Spanish at home, he/she can count three “home” hours on the form. As native speakers have a higher level of Spanish, I am requiring they read seven hours a month. \*\*\*\*

## **Volunteering**

Please check the Source for volunteer opportunities with the immersion program. Hamilton also needs parent volunteers in math and Language Arts classes. Please contact Amy White if you are interested in volunteering in another classroom. (206)252-5831

## **Class Supplies**

- Box of colored pencils/markers (depending on what your child prefers)
- Pens and pencils everyday
- Loose-leaf paper in their binder
- Reinforcement stickers (white circles to keep their papers from falling out)
- Book/Magazine in Spanish brought to class everyday!!

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am very excited to start this year! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions you might have. Thank you for all your help and support! *¡Muchas gracias por su ayuda y apoyo!*

Sincerely,

Maestra Liz Wittmann-Todd

[liwittmantodd@seattleschools.org](mailto:liwittmantodd@seattleschools.org)

206-252-5810 (Hamilton)

206-252-5882 (my extension)

