

## **World Languages Department Parent's Guide**

As your son or daughter works through homework activities, we are providing some test-taking tips for World Languages students. You can support their developing skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language being studied.

### **Test-taking Tips for World Languages Students**

#### **Listening Skills**

- Encourage your son or daughter to always listen in class and be sure they understand what is being said.
- If they have a hearing problem, let their teacher know.
- In a listening test they will be asked to respond to items spoken by either the teacher or a recording.
- They need to listen carefully for directions.
- It's important that they concentrate on what is being said--try closing their eyes from time to time while listening.
- When the teacher is speaking, remind them to observe facial expressions and gestures, listen for changes in his/her voice, and watch his/her lips.
- If the test is recorded, remind them that the recording will not wait for them to catch up.

#### **Speaking Skills**

- Encourage them to participate in class as much as possible to keep improving their skills.
- In a speaking test they may be asked to demonstrate their ability to pronounce accurately, repeat phrases accurately, describe a picture or formulate answers to questions.
- They may be asked to speak in front of the class, help them to record their answers and speak directly to the teacher.
- Help them to prepare by practicing at home with someone in your family, in front of a mirror or with a tape recorder.
- Encourage them to study with a classmate by asking each other questions in person or talking in the language over the phone.
- Remind them to speak clearly and do not mumble.
- Remind them if they make a mistake, keep going.
- Let them know the importance of do not chew gum or eat candy during oral presentations.

#### **Reading Skills**

- Help them to learn vocabulary and verb forms thoroughly.
- They may be asked to recognize vocabulary or verb forms on a specific topic or they may need to answer questions based on their understanding of a paragraph on a specific topic.
- Encourage them to read everything once before trying to answer.
- After reading once, skim (go over quickly) for answers.
- They need to read carefully again looking for information to use in their answers.
- They can focus on what they do know and understand.
- Help them to try to get the gist of the passage if there are things they do not understand.
- Working with them do not spend too long over a single word or phrase.

### **Writing Skills**

- They always need to be observant of the details of the words and phrases you come across in the language.
- In a test they may be asked to correctly spell words or phrases given by the teacher, to compose short sentences or complete sentences or paragraphs on specific topics.
- Practice copying with them.
- Help them to learn to visualize words--try to form a mind picture of the word.
- Remind them to be careful and take time to reflect on what they write so they are accurate.
- They need to concentrate on what they hear during dictation.
- Encourage them to remember groups of words as they write.

## **World Languages Apps**

**Dictionary All Languages App-** Is simple yet elegant and efficient. Typing a word in the search field, the application will try to find the most watching ones. Nineteen dictionaries to choose from, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese and more!

**iCaption App-** With iCaption, creating video subtitles or captions from scratch is made easier, even without prior experience in subtitle or transcript creation, its interface utilizes timeline-based editing with audio visualization.

**Zaption App-** Interact & Learn with Video

**Beginner ASL App-** My Smart Hands Baby Sign Language Dictionary LITE