

## **What happens to the FLITE Program when students graduate Sandpiper?**

After Sandpiper, FLITE students who plan to continue with the FLITE Program will attend Sunrise Middle School for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. FLITE will then continue to Horizon High School where students will have the opportunity to graduate with a Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma.

As we begin the transition of the FLITE Program moving to middle school, there are some questions that need to be addressed so parents can make informed choices.

The following answers were provided by **Mr. Greg Martin, Principal of Sunrise Middle School**.

### **What will a FLITE student's daily schedule look like in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade?**

*A concept model for a middle school schedule which interfaces nicely with the elementary scheduling patterns has been constructed. The daily schedule for an individual student of course will depend on the math placement and elective choice of each student. That said, a typical schedule will include the following:*

*A Social Studies/Science/Spanish block (3 periods) at each grade level (7/8) will be taught in Spanish. A similar model is employed by other districts.*

*This block will allow for a regular or Honors English block (2 periods taught in English), the appropriate math level (Sunrise offers all math levels including Algebra 1-2 and Honors Geometry 1-2 taught in English and on campus for high school credit) and an additional elective, one of which can be Spanish 1-2 or Spanish 3-4 if extension is necessary for some students.*

*A sample 7<sup>th</sup> grade schedule would be:*

8:00-8:49	Period 1 \
8:53-9:42	Period 2 FLITE Block (Science, Social Studies and Spanish all taught in Spanish)
9:46-10:37	Period 3 /
10:41-11:30	Period 4 Math
11:33-12:03	Period 5 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch
12:06-12:55	Period 6 Elective
12:58-1:47	Period 7 \ ELA
1:51-2:40	Period 8 / BLOCK

### **Which courses will be taught in Spanish?**

*Social Studies/Science/Spanish*

*We have worked closely with Ms. Cameron and within the district adoption committee this school year to ensure we will have the same curricular materials (Santillana) as Sandpiper. We know seamless transitioning is a crucial expectation for Sandpiper parents and the choice of class materials is near the top of this list. It is a powerful thing for young learners to "look at familiar things" on this learning pathway.*

### **Will they be able to have a choice of electives?**

*Yes!*

*Sunrise has a comprehensive offering of fine arts electives, including Intro to Chorus, Advanced Boys and Girls Chorus, a girls show choir we call Encore, Concert Band, Beginning and Advanced Strings, Guitar, as well as 7th and 8th grade offerings of both Visual Art and Drama.*

*Sunrise offers Spanish 1-2 as well as a Spanish 3-4 option which is taken at Horizon High School. We also offer Introduction to Mandarin Chinese and Mandarin Chinese 3-4 taught on campus.*

*CTE elective choices include Culinary Arts, Applied Technology, Computer Applications, GenYes, Yearbook, Mentoring and service as a Student Aide.*

*Finally, we offer both Boys and Girls PE, with diverse activities and sports throughout the year.*

### **What kind of Spanish language course will be offered- will it focus on grammar, writing, literature, etc?**

*Our vision is to integrate a Spanish component as one of the two electives within the FLITE block. This class will consist of a deep dive into the structure of the language as you cite in this question as well as an exploration of Spanish-speaking societies and cultures. Candidly, it is our desire to have an ongoing dialogue with Sandpiper FLITE teachers and parents to ensure academic integrity within this process.*

### **Will they be eligible to take honors classes?**

*Yes! We offer honors classes in all academic areas. So, it is entirely possible to have the FLITE block, Honors English block as well as the functional equivalent of an honors math placement.*

### **Is there a way to participate in the FLITE program and also the gifted or DLC program?**

*This would not be possible because Science and Social Studies are the "core" of the DLC as well as with middle School FLITE.*

**We have heard that the program will open up to students from other elementary schools that are Spanish speakers and they have passed the AZELLA. The Sandpiper parents think this is a great idea and will definitely help grow the program. Will there be a screening process for those students to assure they prepared for the level of Spanish they will encounter in the program? Have you had any success finding students for 7th grade next year? What sort of outreach is being done to help those families learn about our program and encourage them to join us at Sunrise? How can Sandpiper parents support these efforts?**

*Great question! This is something that we have had extensive discussion about as we tried to gauge how deeply we wanted to push this out to the community you are describing within the scope of this question. We collaborated with our Language Acquisition department this year trying to identify students within our district who met criteria we thought would ensure their seamless transition to this program from the elementary school. To the point, what we found is very limited interest at this time. Now, this could be for a variety of reasons. A big reason is likely the fact that many of these students really want to attend their feeder middle school with their friends! Transportation was also an identified issue as most of these families live a lengthy distance from Sunrise. Finally, some of these parents conveyed directly to me that they wanted their students to continue within an English teaching and learning model.*

*Now, what I would like to convey to you and all Sandpiper FLITE parents, is that we will continue to work to recruit other PVUSD students who we think will fit our program. As this process evolves, I would love to have Sandpiper community engagement within this process.*

**Is there anything else you want parents to know about Sunrise?**

*Sunrise is a unique school in that we have only had 2 principals in 30 years! I have been here for 15 years and have assembled an excellent staff. Sunrise is a very diverse school and a place of great harmony. I will send a Sunrise flyer and recent parent reviews to you tomorrow when I get in the office. Please click on the URL - <https://youtu.be/VvgyGOXTmFw> - for a virtual tour of the Sunrise campus.*

*In addition, I offer parent/student tours every Wednesday morning at 9 AM all year. I consider these tours and their time spent here as big reasons we have pushed our open enrollment population to over 40% of our student body.*

**There are a lot of parents that are committed to the program and are prepared to work hard to assure its success as we move beyond Sandpiper.**

*I can assure you that we are too. In fact, I consider it an honor that district leadership identified Sunrise as the FLITE middle school. A big reason we were identified is because candidly we have done this before and with great success. When it was determined many years ago that a unique gifted program was needed at the middle level, Sunrise was identified as the school of choice to house this program (the Digital Learning Center for the Gifted or DLC). This program has evolved into the premier program for middle school gifted students in PVUSD as well as the greater valley area. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the DLC*

*will have reached near capacity (100 students) drawing students from all over the north valley. We are committed to doing the same thing with FLITE.*