

October 13, 2008

Dear Parents:

Something very exciting will be taking place in our Spanish II classes, which I have entitled the "Virtual Foreign Language Classroom." To keep in pace with technology, Colts Neck High School is equipped with several new computer labs which will link your child to the Spanish-speaking world. . With this system, we are entering a new era of technology-enabled teaching and learning. The world will be "virtually" at your child's fingertips as he or she embarks on this learning adventure



I will be creating a virtual situation where our students will "live" in Spanish-speaking countries of the world. In order to do so successfully, they will be using MOODLE and the Internet to learn to make reservations, buy clothing, attend school, shop for groceries, interact with peers, etc., all in Spanish, as though they were actually living in the target language countries. They will be learning to function in authentic, real life situations. The Spanish language will come to life for them, both linguistically and culturally.

Part of the learning process will involve posting material on MOODLE web pages that you can access at any time to see what your child has learned. The MOODLE page, located under "Horizon" on the FRHSD web site [www.frhsd.com] is a secure program. Horizon is the Freehold Regional High School District's courseware portal. To access the course pages in this system, the students will need to create an account. A password will be provided by the teacher.

We will be using a scanner or a digital camera to take "family photos" and record virtual experiences as we explore and learn about the target language countries where we will "reside". Your child's real name will never appear with his/her picture. Instead, each "virtual family" will choose a Spanish last name, which will be used in all communications. A work group will also be established so that students will have electronic mail privileges to communicate with other members of their virtual "families", and possibly, real people in the countries researched. Moreover, I hope to add exciting and rewarding language activities as the year progresses.

It is my hope that this year becomes as exciting, realistic and "hands-on" learning experience as we anticipate for your child. The possibilities for learning and exposure to authentic situations in the target language countries are virtually endless. Please contact me if you have any questions. Our adventure is just beginning!

Sincerely,

Sra. McCormack