Hastings High School

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A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Louis A. Adipietro, Principal Melissa Hardesty, Assistant Principal

January 12, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2022,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting initiative offered through the New York State Education Department's Office of Bilingual Education. The initiative allows graduating seniors who can demonstrate proficiency in both English and another World Language to earn a Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma as well as their official transcript. We have offered this opportunity to graduating seniors since 2018, and since then, 60 Hastings High School seniors have pursued and earned the New York State Seal of Biliteracy.

Student participation in the Seal of Biliteracy initiative is optional and completely voluntary. Our goal is to give motivated graduating seniors the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English regardless of how they have acquired it—whether in school or through their cultural heritage. Moreover, in our implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy, we are seeking to recognize as much as possible the advanced language work that students are already doing in their English, ENL and World Language classes.

On Tuesday, February 8, interested seniors will have the opportunity to attend a virtual information meeting on the Seal of Biliteracy requirements. The session will begin at 2:50 p.m. via <u>Google Meet</u>. Those wishing to pursue the Seal will complete an application form, receive training in putting together a digital portfolio, and work with faculty advisers from the World Language, English/ENL departments to guide them in meeting the program requirements and deadlines.

If you believe that this initiative would be a good fit for your graduating senior, I encourage you to talk it over together. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our World Languages Department Chair, Katie Paz, at pazk@hohschools.org / (914) 295-3044.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Adipietro, Principal