



## Discover Haverford Welcomes Spanish Exploradores!

There are a multitude of benefits from learning a new language and Discover Haverford is excited to welcome Spanish Exploradores, an immersive Spanish language learning program to Haverford Township. Geared toward children 9 months old up to 6th grade, the program offers summer camps, Baby and Me classes, and in-school and after-school clubs.



Erika Schell-Rompré founded the program to create a play- and culture-based Spanish learning environment. "The children are not just sitting at desks; they are moving around and engaging with their environment while practicing Spanish. They get to learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries through food, crafts, and other activities. It's exciting to see the kids learn and get excited about learning themselves," shared Schell-Rompré.

A New Jersey native, Schell-Rompré has been learning Spanish since she was a child. "My mom was a high school Spanish teacher for over 30 years. I was very blessed and lucky to have parents who were educators and liked to travel. I've been to a lot of foreign countries—a lot of Latin American countries—Mexico five times. Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Venezuela. I was pretty much getting close to bilingual when I was in high school." During college, she spent a semester abroad in Madrid and had such a great experience that after graduation she moved to Chile for four years, teaching English and working in investments at Citibank. Since her time in Chile, she has lived in Mexico City and Miami, working in finance, doing volunteer work, and eventually receiving her master's degree in business and marketing.

Schell-Rompré first had the idea to start a Spanish education program while her kids were in elementary school. “I came up with the idea because there aren’t a lot of early childhood education language-based programs here. I ran two Spanish clubs at Lynnewood Elementary in the morning, and they were full. We had two different age groups, and it was a lot of fun. I had a great time.” Not only was it extremely rewarding, but it was also very popular and that is what inspired her to keep growing.

Since then, she has expanded the program to different elementary schools, even renting out other spaces to host her program. In 2019, Schell-Rompré held her first summer camp at the American Legion Post for ages 4-6. With great success working in various elementary schools and other locations, it was only fitting that she got a place of her own.



In January 2024, Spanish Exploradores officially opened their first location in Havertown and worked with designer Amber Dibeler from Green Olive Homes to create an ideal learning and play space with lots of fun, playful and inviting decor. Located at

17 Mifflin Ave, Suite 207, the facility is equipped with a crafting area, classrooms, and of course, lots of immersive toys and play stations. Havertown’s central location provides a space not just for learning, but also as a central office for her and her staff to gather. Right now, they are still getting settled, but opening other locations to make language enrichment programs accessible to as many families as possible is a future goal. Schell-Rompré would like to continue giving back to the community. Whether by collecting donations for family-based charities, keeping prices as affordable as possible, or creating a supportive work environment for her fellow Spanish teachers, her mission is clear.

### **Spanish Exploradores**

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