

December 8, 2008

Dear parents of Spanish students;

Kai Kauppi and Jessica Gennari are currently organizing the sixth annual summer course in Spain for students who are planning to continue their Spanish language studies. This letter is to inform you of the program and request that, if interested, you attend an informational meeting Thurs. December 18th in Sr. Kai's classroom at 5:00 p.m. While this trip has no affiliation with School District 9-R or Durango High School, the courses the students will be taking are sanctioned by the Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC and are offered as AP preparation for American and Canadian students ages 15 to 18. Students will live with host families and will attend classes at CLIC IH a Spanish language institute in Seville Spain, taught by native speakers four hours per day for three weeks. The cost of the program also includes extracurricular activities and excursions. Below is a website which explains all of the details. The question and answer link is especially helpful.

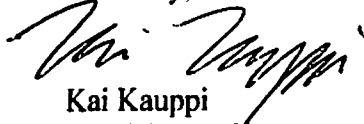
The website will show that students may participate in this program either as a group or as individuals. Our goal is to take a group of at least 18 students from June 14 to July 4 to Sevilla. I need your responses soon, as time is needed to investigate and arrange reasonable airfare, which is NOT included in the program cost. While neither Jessica nor I will be instructing the students, our role will be that of a chaperone, available 24/7 as a resource and a resident "Dad" and "Mom". We will also offer options for activities outside of class and on weekends that are not part of the program.

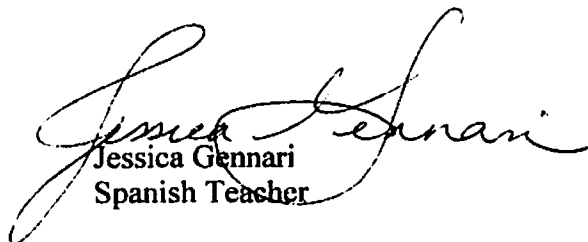
Dot Larson, Durango's AP Spanish teacher accompanied me on last years' trip, and has witnessed first hand how beneficial this submersion is for the students' language acquisition. She stated, "I find this program appealing because it balances academic emphasis with cultural exposure and communicative competence. All are necessary to prepare for advanced levels of language proficiency. It offers much more than the typical 'student tours' which involve staying in hotels, touring on a bus to see the sights, and speaking mostly English with peers." Jessica, and I, are believers in the benefits of time spent in other countries, not only in terms of language acquisition, but also for individual growth.

This will be the Fourth year of traveling to Sevilla and my third trip there. I can tell you first hand the program there is first class. It is an experience of a life time and all who have gone have said they would do it again in a heartbeat. The personal as well as linguistic growth that occurs in an immersion setting is incredible.

If you are interested, please read the materials available on the program's website:  
<http://ap-spanish.eduespa.org> and be at the first meeting Dec. 18 in the Sr. Kai's room.

Sincerely,

  
Kai Kauppi  
Spanish Teacher

  
Jessica Gennari  
Spanish Teacher

