



¡HOLA!



My name is Katia Bymers and this is my 5th year here at Saint John's School.

I have lived in the United States for 16 years now.

I was born in São Paulo, Brazil and moved to the United States right after my wedding! My father is of Italian (Cremona) and Spanish (Malaga) descent and my mother is Japanese.

I grew up speaking Portuguese and with Italians and Japanese grand parents I grew up loving different languages and I think the exposure early on made it easy for me to learn.

I've lived in Tokyo and in Germany and have been traveling quite a bit with my husband ever since I moved to the United States. My husband also shares with me the passion of traveling and he has been to 96 different countries (more than once) to this day. Together we have two children ages 14 and 11 and they have been raised bilingual and traveling along with us as much as possible.

I've been having a great time while introducing Spanish to the children and teaching them about other languages and about different cultures.

My goal is to make learning a second language fun and interesting while trying to make them curious about other cultures and other people around the world.

Here is a summary of what we'll be doing in Spanish Classes in September and October:

The students will be reviewing topics from last year. All the students in grades 1-6 will be receiving a Spanish book and they will keep them inside our classroom.

In Pre-school, grades K and 1 & 2 - We'll be singing 'Hola amigos', 'The alphabet song' and we'll be learning the basic greetings in Spanish, we will be learning about colors, numbers, body parts, food and practicing how to say the sign of the cross in Spanish.

The first and the second graders will also learn how to tell the time in Spanish, the days of the week and we will be talking about the weather everyday!

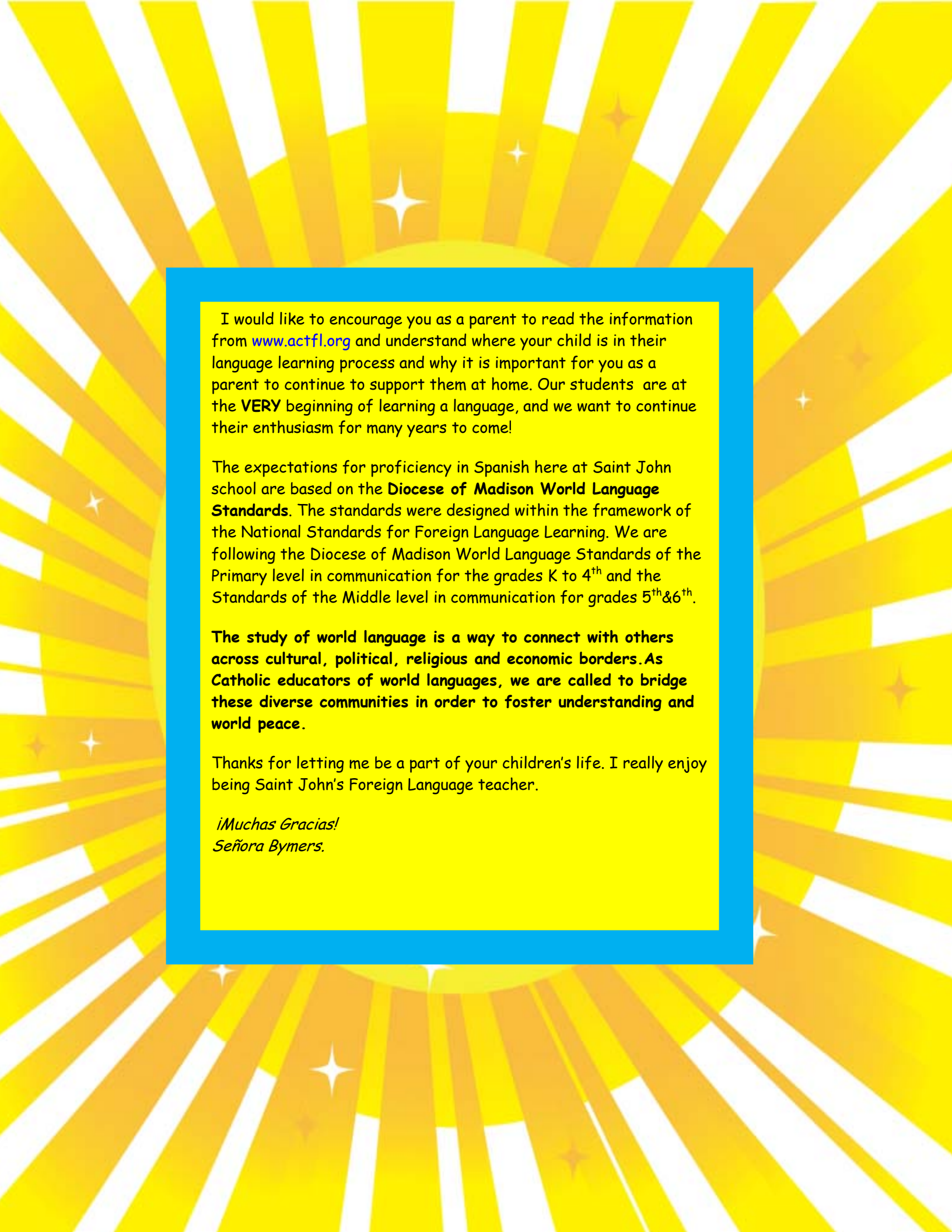
The 3rd and 4th graders - Will be working in their Spanish book. We will be reviewing the vocabulary from last year, play games, review the days of the week, seasons and months of the year. We'll also be reading our Scholastic magazines in Spanish, thanks to Home and School Association.

The 5th graders - We will be reading about the Islands of the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Mexico and Spain. We'll be introduced to 21 Spanish-speaking countries, their capitals, flags, the culture and the people. Please practice with them at home and help them memorize at least 3 countries in South America, the capital of Argentina (Buenos Aires) or where Machu Pichu is located (Peru)!

They will have a test about the Spanish speaking countries and an assignment on the Mayas the Incas and the Aztecs.

The 6th graders - We will be reviewing vocabulary from last year and we will be learning about the Spanish subject pronouns and the verbs that end with AR. We'll play games to memorize at least 20 actions verbs that end with AR.

Please help me by encouraging them to practice Spanish as much as they can outside our classroom. They are able to do so much



I would like to encourage you as a parent to read the information from www.actfl.org and understand where your child is in their language learning process and why it is important for you as a parent to continue to support them at home. Our students are at the **VERY** beginning of learning a language, and we want to continue their enthusiasm for many years to come!

The expectations for proficiency in Spanish here at Saint John school are based on the **Diocese of Madison World Language Standards**. The standards were designed within the framework of the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning. We are following the Diocese of Madison World Language Standards of the Primary level in communication for the grades K to 4th and the Standards of the Middle level in communication for grades 5th&6th.

The study of world language is a way to connect with others across cultural, political, religious and economic borders. As Catholic educators of world languages, we are called to bridge these diverse communities in order to foster understanding and world peace.

Thanks for letting me be a part of your children's life. I really enjoy being Saint John's Foreign Language teacher.

*¡Muchas Gracias!
Señora Bymers.*