

Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District

January 3, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to notify you that the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will be taking part in the State's newly adopted Seal of Biliteracy Program. The Seal of Biliteracy was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English as well as in one other language.

Since our district will be providing students with the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, we are informing all sophomores and juniors and their families about this program now so they can plan for completing the requirements necessary for earning the seal.

We are currently working with the high school guidance departments so that the counselors can discuss the Seal of Biliteracy with students during the upcoming course selection process for the 2017-2018 school year. Students will receive information about the timeline for next year's application and acceptance process in the spring of 2017. In the fall, we will distribute information to initiate the application process.

Please keep in mind that students who wish to *apply* for the Seal of Biliteracy must meet the initial requirements listed below. Students who meet the initial requirements, and are interested in earning the seal, will be given the opportunity to start the application process and work with an advisor to complete culminating projects that demonstrate fluency and excellence in English as well as another language.

Initial Requirements:

- Completion of a Level 4 or 4H World Language class with a minimum grade of 85 for both coursework AND on the level 4H final examination.
- Score of 80 or higher on the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core) OR score of 3 or higher for the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination.

If you have any questions, please speak to your English or World Languages Chairperson.

We hope you consider pursuing this honorable recognition, and we look forward to working with your child.

Sincerely,

Renée Fallon
World Languages Chairperson
516-992-1442

Adeline Atkins
English Chairperson
516-992-1446