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Will the school open as planned?

Absolutely, we are still 100% on schedule to open this fall. DLS has the support of DPS, the Stapleton foundation and several other foundations. We are creating a school with the expectation that it will be around for a very long time.

Is the Denver Language School going to redo the lottery?

Absolutely not. We have no reason to redo the lottery. If you were accepted in the original lottery and turned in your registration forms on time, you're in. If you were accepted off the waitlist and turned in your registration forms, you're in.

Who will replace the Head of School and will she/he/they have a similar background in language education?

The board has approved a new leadership structure. This includes more leadership at the top, not less. Because we are a charter school and have more administrative responsibilities than a typical public school, the board reevaluated our former structure to determine if it was meeting our needs. Instead of having a Head of School and assistant Head of School who would have been required to juggle many administrative duties outside of academics and the classroom, the board has decided to have three key leadership positions to oversee the school. This includes an Executive Director, who administers over operations, an Academic Director (who will also be the Spanish Program Coordinator), and an Assistant Director (Mandarin Program Coordinator). The board feels this structure will better serve the school's needs right now.

Who will fill these positions?

Executive Director: Brian Weber from the Stapleton Foundation has been a key member of the founding team and has been working on the school for over 2 years. He is an ideal candidate to assume this role because he has the best knowledge of the operational status of the school. Brian has been working with parent founders Kristy Fantz and Camilla Modesitt and the board since early 2008 on launching DLS. His hard work and dedication is a key reason why we are now poised to open one of Denver's new, high quality public schools of choice. Brian Weber will continue to manage all school administration, business operations, planning and logistics.

Prior to his involvement with DLS, Brian spent seven years (two as chairman) on the board of the highly successful Odyssey (charter) School so he has deep and broad

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knowledge of the inner workings of charter schools. He has established a strong network of school leaders who have and will continue to advise the DLS team during its start up phase.

The Stapleton Foundation, which has donated a majority of Brian's time to DLS the past two years, has agreed that he may assume these additional responsibilities as part of the Foundation's commitment to the school's success.

Since joining the Foundation in 2000, Brian has led efforts to weave lifelong learning into the development of Stapleton. Brian planned, managed and facilitated participation of more than 200 educators and students, and business, nonprofit and community leaders to create the Stapleton Education Master Plan – one of the first such plans in the country. He has also managed and implemented a number of school redesign, research and community projects.

Brian also leads the Stapleton Workforce and Business Opportunity Committee that advocates and implements plans for workforce development and opportunities for small and women- and minority-owned businesses.

Brian has a Masters of Nonprofit Management from Regis University in Denver. He attended the University of Kentucky and Metropolitan State College of Denver, graduating with a degree in journalism and public administration from MSCD.

Brian has chaired and served on a number of nonprofit boards and civic committees such as the Walton Family Foundation charter school grant committee, the Denver Foundation, the Colorado League of Charter Schools, Denver Mayor's Office for Education and Children, Odyssey Charter School, Urban League advisory board, Denver Press Club, and the Colorado chapter of the national Society of Professional Journalists.

Before joining the Foundation, Brian was a newspaper reporter for 20 years. He worked for a number of publications including Denver's daily newspapers, the late great *Rocky Mountain News* and *The Denver Post*, and the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. Brian's last ten years in journalism were spent at the *Rocky* covering Denver city hall for five years, education the second five.

Academic Director/Spanish Program: Janine Erickson

Currently, Janine is the Immediate Past-President of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). ACTFL is a national professional membership organization representing over 13,000 language educators from all levels of instruction

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and all languages. As part of its mission and vision, the organization provides guidance to the profession and to the general public regarding issues, policies, and best practices related to the teaching and learning of languages and cultures and is a leading national voice among language educators and administrators.

Janine has served as President of the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers, (CCFLT) the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching Board of Directors, (SWCOLT) and is currently Co-Chair of Colorado's State World Language Advisory Council (SWLAC) which advises and facilitates the improvement and development of policies and practices that impact foreign language education in Colorado. Janine has represented the advisory council at meetings of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the Colorado High School Graduation Guidelines Development Council, and Governor Ritter's P-20 Council. She has worked closely with the Colorado Department of Education's Language, Culture and Equity Unit and was the appointed Colorado representative to serve on the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages until she began her term as ACTFL President.

Janine has served on the Higher Education Admission Requirements Foreign Language Task Force, the Colorado State Foreign Language Teacher licensure/endorsement review committee, and in 2009 she served on the Colorado Department of Education's Model Content Standards Review Subcommittee in World Languages. Since the adoption of the new standards Janine has conducted workshops throughout the state to share the new standards with world language educators. She has been a frequent presenter to the Joint House and Senate Education Committee on the importance of world language education in Colorado's schools and has testified before the Colorado Senate Education Committee on matters related to language education.

A frequent presenter at state, regional and national foreign language education conferences, Janine has been honored with the UNC Excellence in Teaching Award, the Genevieve Overman Memorial Service Award from the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers, National Spanish Teacher of the Year Award presented by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and induction into the City of Thornton's 50th Anniversary Golden Hall of Fame for her contribution to education.

With an M.A. in Teaching Foreign Languages, Janine Erickson taught Spanish in Colorado for 24 years in Littleton Public Schools and Adams 12 Five Star School Districts. She taught Spanish Levels I through AP Spanish Language and Literature and was honorary faculty of the University of Colorado at Denver teaching Spanish in the CU Succeed Gold Program. Prior to teaching in Colorado she taught English as a Second Language at IBM

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in Valencia, Spain, where she lived for seven years.

Janine's both national and state leadership as well as her practical knowledge and experience as a teacher in a foreign language classroom makes her an outstanding choice for academic director. Janine has been with the school since its inception, and she is thrilled to be part of the launch of DLS. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and is excited to be such an integral part of the mission and vision of the school. She is already attracting some amazing teacher candidates.

Deputy Director/Chinese Program: Jian Lin

Some of you already know Jian Lin, who has spent the last seven years creating and building the Mandarin Chinese immersion program at the Denver Montclair International School. She developed curricula for preschool through 8th grade, trained/evaluated teachers, oversaw cultural activities and still found time to establish a sister school in China. She developed and taught a Chinese language class for adults and serve as Chief Judge of the First Colorado Chinese Speech Contest sponsored by the Confucius Institute of Denver and Community College of Denver.

Jian is also the co-author of Lanbridge Chinese Children Books (Volume I -X) and Lanbridge Chinese and Pinyin for Young Learners (Volume I-XII) – authorized Chinese learning and teaching books of Hanban (the Office of Chinese Language Council International) in US public and private schools.

Jian holds a BA in Chinese Literature & Psychology, and a Master's in Chinese Literature, both from the South China Normal University, in Guangdong, China. She is in the process of becoming certified as an Early Childhood Education Director and pursuing a Master's in Education from Regis University, with a focus on instructional technology. Lin comes to us with years of experience in both an immersion setting and an elementary setting. She is enthusiastic and we are happy to have her!

Why were the spring camps cancelled?

We apologize if cancelling the spring camps caused any inconvenience. There was little demonstrated interest in the camps. As a start-up school we have limited funding, and we must focus our efforts and resources on the summer camps and the fall.

If you are looking for Chinese instruction for your child, there are several Chinese schools in the area that teach Chinese language after school and on weekends. These schools, such as the Joyous Chinese Cultural Center and Great Wall, can easily be found

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on the Internet. Also, several DLS Board Members have found great Chinese tutors for their children through Craigslist and the University of Denver.

For Spanish instruction, Bridge Denver has a program for children. As with Chinese, you can also find tutors on Craigslist and sometimes through the University of Denver.

In addition, the Denver Public Library offers a free online language instructional called Mango. It is available in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese and many other languages as well.

Please keep in mind that we are not endorsing any of these programs or tutors.

What about the summer camps?

The dates are set for summer camps. Summer camp will be June 23rd – July 28th, and we will be teaming with the Odyssey School. As this is our first year in operation, we are excited to be able to offer summer camps to our incoming students. Since “summer time” means different things to different families, we had myriad viewpoints to consider in designing the summer camps, in addition to budget, location, staff and curriculum.

At this point, camp is structured so DLS students will have language instruction in the morning and will have the option of joining the traditional Odyssey camp in the afternoon. There is a small possibility that children may be able to receive language instruction in the afternoon, but that has not yet been determined. Parent will be able to choose which week or weeks they would like their children to attend, as well whether they want their child to attend half day or full day.

Where is the school located? What is the story behind Denver Language School being located at Whiteman? Will DLS be in Whiteman forever?

The Denver Language School is housed in Whiteman Elementary, which is located at 451 Newport Street in Denver. Whiteman Elementary School was built in 1955, and named for Wilberforce Whiteman, Supervisor of the Department of Music of the Denver Public Schools from 1888 to 1924. Wilberforce Whiteman was the father of Paul Whiteman, the famous 1920's era “King of Jazz”.

As a school built in the '50's, Whiteman is privileged to house a full working auditorium stage, a beautiful gymnasium, a dedicated cafeteria with a full kitchen, and two playground areas for younger and older children.

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Two years ago, DPS made the difficult decision to close Whiteman. We feel very fortunate that DPS agreed to rent Whiteman to DLS, as finding a school location is often the number one difficulty for charter schools. Not only do we pay less in rent to DPS than we would on a commercial real estate property, but we enjoy the tremendous benefit of being housed in a beautiful school. We plan to be there until we outgrow the school, which we anticipate will be in about 3 or 4 years. Our plan is to relocate somewhere north of Whiteman in the NE quadrant of Denver. There will be a school relocation committee, chaired by Board member, charged with facilitating the process of finding a new school.

When will DLS be allowed to occupy Whiteman?

The majority of the renovations will be finished on August 2nd. DPS has committed to allow us to occupy the building on this date.

Who will be in charge of managing assessments?

The Academic Director, Janine Erickson, and the Deputy Director of School, Jian Lin, will be ultimately be responsible for managing teacher and student assessments, but the teachers will, of course, be very involved in student assessments as well.

When will students with identified special needs receive these services?

We will encourage parents to have all English support offered in the extended day portion of the day. We are legally obligated to offer it during the core day if the parent wants that. Please contact Janine Erickson at spanish@denverlanguageschool.org if you would like to discuss this further.

What kinds of professional development will DLS offer to support its teachers?

DLS has always been committed to professional development for its teachers. There are myriad professional development opportunities (too many to list here), including, but not limited to: conferences, training workshops, professional learning communities, and online educational courses. DLS is committed to providing professional support to its teachers in such areas as: language immersion best practices, differentiated instruction, total physical response, and PBIS – just to name a few. If you are interested, you can discover more about some of these professional development opportunities at <http://www.carla.umn.edu/>, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/pbs/>, and www.nnell.org.

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In addition, DLS has contracted with Tara Fortune, PhD from CARLA (Center for Applied Research and Language Acquisition) to conduct a 3-day teacher training in the beginning of August. Tara is an internationally recognized expert in language immersion best practices and will cover topics such as:

- * Essential elements of effective language immersion programs and classrooms
- * Curriculum development for immersion classrooms
- * Constructing language objectives that make a difference
- * Instructional activities and strategies that foster language development
- * Online resources for immersion educators

Will DLS offer an Extended Care program?

Absolutely; the optional extended day will be from 3-5. Furthermore, if there is a program you would like to see offered during the extended day, please contact the school. Our plan is to offer a variety of class choices. We still have a commitment to special services, tutoring, and English language support during the extended day. Overall, our goal is to provide a high quality program that gives parents flexibility and options. The extended day class schedule will be posted this summer.

Does DLS have a uniform policy?

Yes, DLS has a uniform policy. At this time, the uniforms have not yet been determined, but all children will be required to wear a uniform to school. We will notify you when it is time to place your order for school uniforms through DLS sometime within the next few months.

Why uniforms?

The adoption of a uniform policy can promote school safety, improve discipline, and enhance the learning environment.

Benefits:

- Builds school pride
- Levels the socioeconomic playing field
- Provides a sense of community
- Helps prevent inappropriate clothing
- Instills students with discipline
- Helps parents and students resist peer pressure
- Helps students concentrate on their school work

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- Helps school officials recognize intruders who come to the school.
- Improves sense of safety

What is DLS's discipline policy? What about school culture?

Often times, discipline and school culture are confused. When you walk into a school that operates in an orderly manner, the kids are well behaved, and there is a general sense of peace and well being, it's not because the school has a strict discipline policy, but rather because the school has created a dynamic intentional school culture.

An intentional school culture is so important that academic experts have written books on it and conducted professional development workshops about it; DPS even has a dedicated "Office of Intentional School Culture."

Creating an intentional school culture takes time and commitment, but in a nutshell, it is done by identifying a school's values, the dominant mindsets of students, staff, and parents, and deliberate entry points such as leadership, academic expectations, and problem solving. DLS's Executive Leadership has created an intentional culture on paper and will work this summer to train all DLS staff on DLS core values and best practices for implementing the school culture.

Since its inception 2.5 years ago, DLS has always carried with it the following core values:

- **Respect:** appreciate the value of a person and demonstrate it through words, actions and attitudes.
- **Community:** recognize that individuals prosper with a larger purpose than themselves.
- **Personal Accountability:** make ethically guided, thoughtful choices and be accountable for them.
- **Integrity:** be truthful and fair.
- **Cultural Appreciation:** honor the world's wide array of people, cultures, religions, races, and values and beliefs.
- **Best Efforts:** always try the hardest.
- **Commitment:** be true to what the school and community represent to allow everyone the chance to succeed.

As for discipline, DLS will ensure that every teacher has an effective classroom management style or technique. In addition, DLS believes in PBIS, or Positive Behavior

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Intervention and Supports (you can find out more about PBIS at <http://www.pbis.org>). In addition, DLS has adopted the discipline policy of DPS, which governs issues including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion. The Executive Director, Academic Director, and Deputy Director work together to ensure that all children at DLS are safe, happy, and well cared for.

What about the curriculum (Spanish, Chinese, Math and Science)?

The director of each program will design the curriculum with the teachers in the program. The academic leadership team is in the process of reviewing curriculum options available in Spanish and Mandarin. The plan is to have the curriculum finalized by May 15th. Once the curriculum is determined, DLS will post the curriculum to the website.

Singapore Math was previously announced as the Math Curriculum, is this still the case?

Yes, Singapore Math is still the Math curriculum DLS will be using.

Where is DLS with teacher hiring?

Teacher hiring is proceeding as planned. We have some amazing candidates, and we cannot wait to finalize our hiring, so our parents can finally meet our teachers! We hope to start posting their profiles to our website soon.

Why the calendar change? Has the calendar been set?

We apologize that this change is inconvenient to parents. Unfortunately, the board did not approve the originally posted calendar on the website. Construction on the school renovation will not be complete until August 2nd, and our teachers need time to prepare their classroom and attend essential training to ensure the success of our program. We appreciate your flexibility with this change.

The official school calendar will be forthcoming and will be similar to the DPS calendar, but not identical. We do not have dates for parent/teacher conferences at this time.

Will language learning be centered around TPR, or will you take a more traditional approach?

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The language learning component of the school has always been centered around TPR, Total Physical Response, which is an effective and meaningful method for language instruction. Many of our teacher applicants are already trained in TPR, but we will also offer professional development this summer to DLS staff.

Will DLS offer a healthy lunch program?

Denver Language School is excited to partner with DPS in the launching of its new Healthy Lunch program. As part of the program, DPS will provide DLS with its own chef, who will be at the school each day to prepare the food. Through the healthy lunch program, DPS is making strides to provide students with whole food and vegetarian options. Breakfast and a snack will also be available to all students for no cost. There will be a parent committee who will meet with the chef once a month to ensure the new lunch program is working for our school. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact the committee chair Sara Murphy at Sara.Murphy@qwest.com.

Will junk food be sold in the school?

No. We are committed to keeping our students healthy, and will not offer any concessions that offer junk food.

School Hours

The core academic day will be from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The extended day is from 3:00 pm to 5 pm. Breakfast will be served before the start of the core day.

Before Care and After care

Before Care and After Care will be offered but the price has not yet been determined. The cost will be competitive with the other programs offered through DPS.

What about parent volunteer groups such as the PTA?

If you would like to offer volunteer services or serve on a parent committee please e-mail Jana Vogel at volunteers@denverlanguageschool.org. There is a wide variety of opportunities for parent volunteers.

Parent Committees:

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Class room and staff support: including room parents, setting up classrooms in the fall, field trip support, and staff appreciation

Communication: school directory/ handbook, newsletters, translations bulletin boards

Extended Day: after school enrichment

Fundraising Activities:

Outreach/ Hospitality: back to school night, parent coffees, open house tours, parent and staff socials

Parent and Family activities: family night events

School Aesthetics: Parent pitch in days, safety, garden and grounds

School spirit & special events events such as Dia de Los Ninos, Chinese New Year

Healthy Lunch: interviews and chooses school chef and provides monthly feedback on the DPS healthy lunch program. Sara Murphy is the chair of this committee

We are also working to put in place a main contact for each grade and language to start organizing smaller community events.

K Spanish Ambassador

K 1st grade Ambassador

K 2nd grade Ambassador

K Mandarin Ambassador

K 1st grade Ambassador

K 2nd grade Ambassador

PTA and its officers.

Thank You!