



December 13, 2023

Re: SPANISH EXCHANGE 2024 - 25 FOR CURRENT GRADE 7 STUDENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A primary goal of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) is to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics that will lead them to become personally successful, economically productive, and actively engaged global citizens. The Internationalization of our schools and our curriculum is an important strategy contributing to the achievement of this goal. The school board has provided a wide variety of international opportunities to Secondary School students in the past and continuing moving forward. This coming school year, the WCDSB has organized opportunities for Elementary Schools, including a Student Exchange with Spain. It will be offered to current grade 7 students who attend school with the WCDSB. **The exchange will occur during their grade 8 school year.**

The exchange will be provided and supported in collaboration with Ken's Education Group (Ken's). Ken's Education Group is experienced, with a well-developed infrastructure to facilitate exchanges. They have demonstrated due diligence and promotion of high standards in all they do and as such, will be the primary facilitator of the exchange. Ken's has also provided an introductory parent/ guardian letter to accompany this letter.

This will be a true exchange experience where a one-to-one pairing of students will carry throughout the exchange. The Spanish exchange will involve three components:

1. Mandatory Spanish language classes to develop language proficiency and enhance the overall experience for WCDSB students prior to travelling to Spain
2. A Spanish student will come to stay in your home for 5 weeks, in late September through October 2024 (dates are to be finalized)
3. WCDSB students will travel to Spain to stay in their partner student's home for 3 weeks, from mid Feb to approximately March Break, 2025

If you are an interested family and would like to learn more, please complete the Google Form included in this letter ([Gr 8 Spanish Exchange Information Meeting 2024-25](#)) and plan to attend our virtual information meeting on January

Financial assistance may be available to support your child's involvement in this exchange. Please contact your school principal for more information.

For more information or general inquiries regarding the exchange, please contact Carla Santomero at Carla.santomero@wcdsb.ca

Sincerely,

Carla Santomero
Principal,
International Education
Waterloo Catholic District School Board

