

# Norton Academy: A Science & Language Academy

## Lewis Center for Educational Research



### PATHWAY TO SEAL OF BILITERACY AWARDS 2016-17

Dear Students and Families,

The Norton Academy is proud to join many districts across the nation in recognizing and celebrating the diverse multilingual abilities of our students. We are happy to announce a series of awards that recognize a student's multilingual abilities at three important stages in their schooling:

- kindergarten
- fifth grade, and
- eighth grade.

These awards will help prepare them to eventually earn the California State Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma when they graduate from high school. Since we are a dual immersion school, most of our students will earn this award by demonstrating language skills in English and Spanish. However, it is important to emphasize that this award applies to more world languages. **Students may notify their teacher by May 17, if they wish to demonstrate language skills in any other world languages**, for example in Chinese, Hebrew, French, Khmer, Vietnamese and Arabic. The purpose and requirements for the awards are listed below.

#### **Purpose:**

- To encourage students to study languages as part of their 21<sup>st</sup> century skill set
- To recognize the value of biliteracy skills
- To provide the community with a method of identifying and certifying students with bilingual and biliteracy skills
- To celebrate families' efforts/commitment in raising bilingual children
- To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community

#### **Requirements:**

Any students in Kinder, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels who have demonstrated proficiency in two or more languages by:

1. A reading assessment in each language being recognized;
2. An essay in each language on an topic specific to this award; and
3. An oral presentation (Powerful Oral Presentation – P.O.P) in each language.

4. For English Learners, Overall proficiency of Early Advanced or Advanced on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT), with no subdomain less than Intermediate.

All Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) accommodations will apply for the Biliteracy Achievement Awards. The IEP team can determine any further accommodations to the criteria.

Please contact your child's teacher for more information, 909-386-2300. Awards will be presented in the grade level awards ceremonies at the end of each school year.

Thank you.