

Foreign Languages

The goal of a modern foreign language course is to teach students to communicate with people in another language. This involves the development of the four skills fundamental to language acquisition: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The study of culture is also an integral part of the curriculum. Through this process, students will better understand their own culture and increase their global awareness. A four-year sequence is recommended for optimum success in second language acquisition.

French I, German I, Italian I, Mandarin Chinese I, and Spanish I: Regular and Accelerated

Length: Two semesters
One period

Credit: 1 credit

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

No prerequisite; however, accelerated placement will be determined by the teacher after first quarter.

French II, German II, Italian II, Chinese II, and Spanish II: Regular and Accelerated

Length: Two semesters
One period

Credit: 1 credit

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of first-year language. Accelerated placement will be determined by either the 8th grade teacher or the teacher of the level I high school course.

French III, German III, Italian III, Chinese III and Spanish III: Regular and Accelerated

Length: Two semesters
One period

Credit: 1 credit

Grade: 10, 11, 12 only

Prerequisite: Successful completion of second-year language

French IV, German IV, Italian IV, and Spanish IV: Regular and Accelerated

Length: Two semesters
One period

Credit: 1 credit

Grade: 11, 12 only

Prerequisite: Successful completion of third-year language

In the first year of a modern foreign language, students become familiar with the sounds of the language, its basic vocabulary, and the most common structures. They study the cultures, the countries, and the lifestyles of the people who speak the language.

In the second year of a modern foreign language, students improve their ability to understand and speak as well as read and write. They broaden their knowledge and understanding of the people whose language they are studying.

In the third year of a modern foreign language, students further develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students deepen their appreciation of the culture through a variety of studies.

In the fourth year of a modern foreign language, students use the language almost exclusively as they read, think, speak, and write in varied situations.

French V, German V, Italian V, and Spanish V: Regular and Accelerated. (Spanish 5 A. P. - see below)

Length: Two semesters
One period

Credit: 1 credit

Grade: 12 only

Prerequisite: Successful completion of fourth-year language

A fifth year of a foreign language is offered in each high school when there is sufficient demand for such a course. Students gain further proficiency in reading, thinking, speaking, and writing as well as cultural concepts in this level of study.

Open to seniors.

Accelerated Program in Foreign Languages

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the teacher of the previous course, or in first-year courses, upon recommendation of the current teacher

The accelerated program is offered at all levels of the language. The materials of the regular course are enriched by a more intensive study of language structure and by more diversified reading.

Advanced Placement Spanish V–Language

Length: Two semesters
One period

Credit: 1 credit

Grade: 10-12

Spanish Advanced Placement is a college-level course open to students who are capable of doing college-level work. Students will be expected to develop a Spanish vocabulary and understanding of grammar sufficient to read newspapers and magazines, literary texts, and other non-technical writing without the use of a dictionary. Students will also learn to express themselves in Spanish both orally and in writing with reasonable fluency and be able to understand spoken Spanish in various conversational situations. Spanish V Advanced Placement focuses on language usage and some literature. By performing satisfactorily on the advanced placement examination, students may earn college credit.

Foreign Language in Elementary Schools

Every building receives students with prior foreign language training at the junior high level in Spanish, French, Italian, and German. Students are placed in the second year, second year accelerated or repeat first year according to the recommendation of their 8th grade foreign language teacher.
