

WORLD LANGUAGES

The study of a second language and culture, whether contemporary or classical, enriches the students' understanding of their own language and culture, and can also increase both the verbal and math SAT scores. This department recognizes that the ability to communicate in a language other than one's native tongue is therefore a highly desirable life skill for all students. Toward that end, the department, guided by a proficiency-based approach to instruction, encourages all students not only to begin the study of a second language, but also to continue to study their language of choice for a minimum of three years. Students who wish to achieve high levels of proficiency are encouraged to study the same language for as many years as possible. In addition to studying another language as long as possible, students are also encouraged to study a second world language.

Department expectations: For success in all languages and at all levels, students should be prepared daily. They are expected to actively participate in all aspects of class (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural studies) as appropriate to their target language.

LEVELS OF LANGUAGE OFFERINGS

General Level: For students who are not enrolled in a college preparatory program of studies. Class participation through listening, speaking, and note taking is required. Conversational ability with the language is stressed. The general level courses do not meet the requirements of a foreign language course of study for college entrance, but will help prepare students who need extra review time to be able to take a college preparatory course. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis.

College Level: For students who are planning to attend college and who are willing to study independently to increase their knowledge. This level emphasizes acquisition of vocabulary and comprehension of grammar and language structure. The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are stressed. Students are expected to do daily homework.

Honors Level: For independent learners who want to excel in the language and who will use problem-solving skills to apply and to extend the concepts taught in class. The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are stressed. Teachers use the target language considerably during each class for communication. Students are also expected to communicate in the target language. Consistent preparation outside of class is essential as these courses progress at an accelerated level.

Advanced Placement Level: Self-motivated students will prepare to take the Advanced Placement Exam through consistent use of the target language and will continue to develop the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The emphasis in the Latin course is vocabulary building, translations, and literary interpretation.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FRENCH I - COLLEGE (3305)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is recommended for students in a College Preparatory program.
Description: Through active participation, level one students begin to communicate in French as they learn to understand, speak, read, and write in this useful language. The students also become familiar with the culture of the French-speaking world through readings, movies, taped recordings, and discussions. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

FRENCH II - COLLEGE (3306)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French I - College or its equivalent is required.
Description: The level two course begins with a review of vocabulary, grammar and verb usage. Continuing from level one, the students strengthen their skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through active participation. The students increase their knowledge of the culture of the French-speaking world through related readings, videos, and recordings. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

FRENCH III - COLLEGE (3307)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French II - College or its equivalent is required.
Description: The students review and continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This level continues to stress the use of the French language in class by the student and by the teacher in order to build and reinforce useful vocabulary, to practice language skills, and to discuss a variety of cultural topics. Students should demonstrate a commitment to increasing their knowledge of French. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

FRENCH II - HONORS (3407)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: A grade average of 85 or higher in French I - Honors or the VCMS level one program or a grade average of 88 or higher in French I - College is strongly recommended.

Description: This course begins with a review of vocabulary, grammar, and verb usage. As a continuation from level one, the students strengthen their skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through active participation. The students increase their knowledge of the culture of the French-speaking world through related readings, videos, and recordings. Students in the honors level participate in all skill areas in greater depth and at an accelerated rate.

FRENCH III - HONORS (3408)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: A grade average of 85 or higher in French II - Honors or a grade average of 88 or higher in French II - College is strongly recommended.

Description: The students review and continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The honors level continues to stress the constant use of the French language in class by students and the teacher in order to build and reinforce useful vocabulary, to practice language skills, and to discuss a wide variety of cultural topics. Students in the honors level participate in all skill areas in greater depth and at an accelerated rate.

FRENCH IV - HONORS (3409)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: A grade average of 85 or higher in French III - Honors or a grade average of 88 or higher in French III - College is strongly recommended.

Description: This course promotes achievement and higher levels of proficiency in the French language and an increased awareness and understanding of France and the French-speaking world. Through an understanding of a variety of prepared and authentic materials, students build their accuracy in the four language skills areas. Vocabulary related to professions and certain fields of work such as health, education, travel, and other trades will be reviewed. Tasks may include language lab work, audio and video taping, skits, composition writing, and extended readings, in addition to regular classroom activities. This class is conducted almost exclusively in French.

FRENCH V - HONORS (3410)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French IV - Honors or its equivalent is required.

Description: Conducted exclusively in French, this course provides students with the continued opportunity to develop their skills in French with an emphasis on essay and composition in preparation for college level work. Areas of study may include topics of special interest to the students; the culture of the French-speaking world; contemporary France; reading selections by French literary masters; and authentic audio and video programs. Grammar and vocabulary are reviewed in context and/or as needed. Students are encouraged to participate actively in all discussions and activities. Depending on enrollment, this course will run concurrently with the Advanced Placement Spanish course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH LANGUAGE (3502)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.08

Prerequisites: A grade average of 88 or higher in all French honors level courses is strongly recommended.

Description: The purpose of the course is to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement French Language exam and to encourage students to continue their study of French beyond high school. Through a high level of active participation, students continue to increase their language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as to expand their vocabulary. It is the equivalent of a third year college course. Students will be required to take (and pay for) the Advanced Placement Examination in the spring.

GERMAN I - COLLEGE (3311)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is recommended for students in a College Preparatory program.

Description: Through active participation, level one students begin to develop proficiency in German as they learn to understand, speak, read, and write in this useful language, now the important language of Central Europe and the European Community. Students also become familiar with the culture of the German-speaking world through readings, audio and video recordings, and discussions.

GERMAN II - COLLEGE (3312)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of German I - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: In this continuation of level one, students strengthen their skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through active participation, and increase their knowledge of the German-speaking world through related readings, videos, recordings and the Internet.

GERMAN III - COLLEGE (3313)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of German II - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: The students review and continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The level three course continues to stress the constant use of German in class by students and the teacher in order to build and reinforce a useful vocabulary, to practice language skills, to discuss a wider variety of cultural topics, to read some excerpts of German literature, and to access German topics on the Internet.

GERMAN IV - HONORS (3412)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Successful completion of German III - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: The emphasis of the course is on reading and building greater proficiency in all the skills of language learning. Cultural material is viewed through a variety of reading materials, videos, recordings, and the Internet. All grammar is presented and reinforced. This course is designed for motivated students with a high level of interest in the German language and culture.

LATIN I - GENERAL (3204)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is recommended for students in a Practical or General English program.

Description: This beginning course in Latin is offered to students who are not in the college preparatory program. Students begin to read, comprehend and translate Latin and develop language skills which include understanding basic grammar. Much emphasis is placed on expanding vocabulary both in Latin and English and on the process of reading which applies not only to Latin but also to English. Students also study daily life situations of the ancient world which contributed to and still contribute to Western civilization. Some listening and speaking are included to facilitate the ability to read and comprehend the Latin language.

LATIN I - COLLEGE (3308)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is recommended for students in a College Preparatory program.

Description: Students learn to read, comprehend and translate Latin stories, develop language skills and gain a wide variety of Latin vocabulary. Basic grammar and forms are learned. English words from Latin are studied to increase the students' English vocabulary. Students also study basic Roman history and daily life situations of the ancient world which contributed to Western civilization. Listening and speaking are included to facilitate the ability to read and comprehend the Latin language.

LATIN II - COLLEGE (3309)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Latin I - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: Students continue to learn to read, comprehend and translate Latin stories, to further their language skills, and to increase their Latin and English vocabularies and reading skills. The basic grammar structures of the Latin language are reviewed and reinforced; more complicated structures are introduced. Much emphasis is placed on the development of Rome's empire and her contributions to Western civilization. Students will use the Internet to access information on the Classical World as well.

LATIN III - COLLEGE (3310)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Latin II - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: Students sharpen reading comprehension and translation skills as they move into reading real Latin prose and poetry and they complete the study of grammar structures. Advanced vocabulary and derivative work is central to the course. Great emphasis in this course is placed on the central position of Rome in the ancient world and the issues concerned with living there in the first century A.D. Students will begin the study of Latin literature and use the Internet to access information on the ancient world.

LATIN IV - HONORS (3413)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Latin III or its equivalent is required.

Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to read several Latin works and part of the Aeneid, in depth, to develop an appreciation for style and facility in the Latin language, to appreciate literary masterpieces, and to evaluate the significance of such literary works in literary, historical, political and social contexts.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LATIN: VERGIL (3503)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.08

Prerequisites: Consistently high achievement in previous Latin courses is required.

Description: This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Latin: Vergil examination. Students read, comprehend and translate Vergil's Aeneid Books I, II, IV, portions of Books VI, VIII, and XII, and selections of other Augustan authors as required by the Advanced Placement Syllabus. Attention is paid to developing advanced reading comprehension, translation, and literary interpretive skills. Students study the metrics of epic and learn to read aloud metrically. Vocabulary study and development continue to be stressed. Students consider the literary, historical and political significance of the Aeneid. They study poetry of the Augustan Age for its importance in the development of Western thought. Students will be required to take (and pay for) the Advanced Placement Latin: Vergil examination in the spring.

SPANISH I - GENERAL (3201)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is recommended for students in a Practical or General program.

Description: This beginning course is offered to students who are not in the college preparatory program and who have an interest in learning the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Emphasis is placed on developing listening and speaking skills. Students also begin to learn to read and write in Spanish. Culture is studied through projects and videos where students learn about the people and customs of Spanish-speaking countries. This class calls for students to be active participants and listeners and be consistently prepared.

SPANISH II - GENERAL (3202)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish I General or its equivalent is required.

Descriptions: The emphasis of this course is to strengthen and expand the students' knowledge of the basic material of Spanish I through conversation, composition and short readings that provide insight into the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students in this course may continue studying Spanish the following year in Spanish I College. This course requires that students be active participants and listeners and be consistently prepared.

SPANISH I - COLLEGE (3301)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is recommended for students in a College Preparatory program or for those who have successfully completed Spanish II - General.

Description: Through active participation, level one students begin to communicate in Spanish as they learn to understand, speak, read, and write this useful language. Students also become familiar with the culture of the Spanish-speaking world through readings, movies, taped recordings, and discussions. This class calls for students to be active participants and listeners. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH II - COLLEGE (3302)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish I - College or its equivalent is required (or a grade average of 90 or higher in Spanish II - General and recommendation of the teacher).

Description: This course begins with a review of vocabulary, grammar and verb usage. As a continuation from level one, students strengthen their skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through active participation. Students increase their knowledge of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world through related readings, videos, and recordings. This course requires that students be active participants and listeners. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH III - COLLEGE (3303)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish II - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: The students review vocabulary and grammar and continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This level continues to stress the increased use of the foreign language in class by the students and the teacher in order to build vocabulary and to practice language skills. A variety of cultural topics are discussed. This class calls for students to be active listeners and active participants. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH IV - COLLEGE (3304)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish III - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: This course assists students in developing greater proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through vocabulary & language activities. A major and important focus of this level of Spanish will be on professions and vocabulary related to certain fields of work such as health, education, travel, and other trades. Cultural material is presented through readings, television & radio programs, videos and other prepared materials. This class requires that students be active participants and listeners. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH V - COLLEGE (3315)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish IV - College or its equivalent is required.

Description: This course is designed for students who successfully complete Spanish IV - College or Honors. The emphasis of the course is in strengthening listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills at this level. Selected readings, contemporary and historic issues from the Spanish-speaking world, and cultural videos serve as sources of vocabulary, discussion and writing topics that reinforce all language skills. Students are required to do daily homework and spend time reviewing and preparing for tests outside of class. Organizational and time management skills are essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH II - HONORS (3402)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation and a grade average of 85 or higher in Spanish I - Honors or the VCMS level one program or a grade average of 88 or higher in Spanish I - College is strongly recommended.

Description: This course begins with a review of vocabulary, grammar and verb usage. As a continuation from level one, students strengthen their skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through active participation. Students increase their knowledge of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world through related readings, videos, and recordings. Students in the honors level participate in all skill areas in greater depth and at an accelerated rate. They are expected to spend extra time out-of-class preparing for tests and reviewing new concepts. Daily preparation is essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH III - HONORS (3403)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: A grade average of 85 or higher in Spanish II - Honors or a grade average of 88 or higher in Spanish II - College is strongly recommended.

Description: The students review and continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The honors level continues to stress the constant use of the foreign language in class by the students and the teacher in order to build vocabulary, to practice language skills, and to discuss a wide variety to cultural topics. Students in the honors level participate in all skill areas in greater depth and at an accelerated rate. They are expected to spend extra time out-of-class preparing for tests and reviewing new concepts. Daily preparation is essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH IV - HONORS (3404)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: A grade average of 85 or higher in Spanish III - Honors or a grade average of 88 or higher in Spanish III - College is strongly recommended.

Description: This course has two areas of concentration. The first area emphasizes the development of composition skills by means of an in-depth study and application of grammar, vocabulary, and idioms. The second area allows the student to develop a proficiency in oral expression by means of classroom discussion and use of the language lab. A major and important focus of this level of Spanish will be on professions and vocabulary related to certain fields of work such as health, education, travel, and other trades. Topics for compositions and discussions are generated from selected readings of varying types, current events, and audio and video productions. Students in the honors level participate in all skill areas in greater depth and at an accelerated rate. They are expected to spend extra time out-of-class preparing for tests and reviewing new concepts. Daily preparation is essential to being successful in this course.

SPANISH V - HONORS (3405)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish IV - Honors or its equivalent is required.

Description: This course offers advanced practice in speaking and writing. Also, the course continues the study of Spanish-speaking people, their roots and their present, through reading selected works by the recognized masters of Spanish and Latin American literature. Depending on enrollment, this class will run concurrently with the Advanced Placement Spanish course. They are expected to spend extra time out-of-class preparing for tests and reviewing new concepts. Daily preparation is essential to being successful in this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE (3501)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.08

Prerequisites: A grade average of 88 or higher in all Spanish honors level courses is strongly recommended.

Description: This course is the equivalent of a third year college course in advanced Spanish composition and conversation. Audio and video programs, newspaper and magazine articles, and modern literature will aid in guiding discussion and topics of composition. There is extensive use of the language lab to develop listening comprehension as well as speaking skills. Students will be required to take (and pay for) the Advanced Placement Spanish Language examination in the spring.

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN WORLD LANGUAGES

Credit by Arrangement Weight by Arrangement

Prerequisites: Approval of Housemaster, World Languages staff, and Guidance Counselor is required.

Description: Independent study is offered to students who have successfully completed the highest level of a foreign language offered and who wish to continue their study *in a specific area where there is no advanced offering*. The student will work with a teacher to develop a plan of activities based on the outlines in the curriculum guides. Students who have completed the third year of language study may sign up for the Independent Study in the Elementary After-School Program. This option requires the recommendation of the student's World Language teacher and approval by the Coordinator of World Languages.