

# • SOCIAL SCIENCE •

Tom Smith, Division Head  
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## HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

All freshman students will be placed in the Human Geography course. This class is one of three required core social science courses for graduation. Placement for this course is determined by and linked to English placement for the freshman year.

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# • WORLD LANGUAGES •

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Students at Hersey can choose from  
**FRENCH, MANDARIN, SPANISH OR SPANISH FOR  
NATIVE SPEAKERS!**



# •WORLD LANGUAGES•

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## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### **WHY SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE A WORLD LANGUAGE?**

In today's world, knowledge of multiple languages and cultures is more important than ever before. Our courses provide both, offering in-depth **study of language** as well as opportunities to participate in **diverse cultural experiences**. Additionally, more and more universities are looking for well-rounded students and often require two to four years of world language study prior to being admitted to their university.

Studies have shown:

- Students enrolled in second language courses tend to achieve higher on the verbal section of the PSAT than peers not enrolled in any second language instruction (Milewski & Sawtell, 2006).
- Students tend to outperform their monolingual peers on the English and Mathematics sections of the ACT (Olsen & Brown, 1992).
- There has been evidence of a dramatic gap in SAT scores when comparing students with only one year of world language instruction and those with three or four years of instruction (Cooper, 1987).

### **HOW IS WORLD LANGUAGE PLACEMENT DETERMINED?**

Placement at Level I or Level II is determined by a combination of the middle school language grades and middle school teacher recommendations. We encourage **recommended** students to move to level II so as to prevent a repetitive language experience. To support this challenge, we offer many teacher and student-provided tutoring opportunities for language students of all levels. We encourage students to challenge themselves to remain in the highest placement possible, and we discourage premature level changes.

If a student/parent feels strongly about a particular language placement level, ***immediate contact with the Division Head, Tom Smith (847.718.4893 or Tom.Smith@d214.org) is essential!***

***NOTE:*** *Students who take middle school world language but do not achieve a "B" or better are discouraged from moving to Level II as freshmen.*

### **HOW MANY YEARS OF WORLD LANGUAGE SHOULD A STUDENT TAKE?**

Most colleges require two to three years for admission. Additionally, many colleges do not require a world language at the college level if a student has **successfully completed four years of the same language in high school**.

### **HOW CAN STUDENTS GET HONORS CREDIT FOR WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES?**

Language courses at level III and IV are titled "Honors" and allow students to earn a weighted (5.5) grade. Thus, Freshmen who begin in level II language and continue to level III earn Honors credit in World Language as early as the Sophomore year.

### **MAY STUDENTS STILL SIGN UP FOR WORLD LANGUAGE WITHOUT PREVIOUS COURSEWORK IN LANGUAGE?**

**YES!** Many students sign up for a language for the first time as freshmen and are very successful. Curriculum for Level I courses is designed for students with **no** previous language experience. Some students choose to study a language different than their middle school language of choice.