

• WORLD LANGUAGE: Electives for Freshmen •

Tom Smith, Division Head

tom.smith@d214.org 847.718.4893

FRENCH, MANDARIN, SPANISH and SPANISH FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS!
These courses are currently offered at Hersey.



German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Russian

These courses are being offered by District 214 and may involve traveling to another D214 building.



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, **parents must contact the Division Head, Tom Smith (847.718.4893 or Tom.Smith@d214.org) at the time of course registration**

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 (4.5) 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.

Which language interests you?

Why French?

- Are you considering a career in international affairs, business or service? French is an official language of more than 30 countries, and it is a working language of global organizations such as the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and Doctors without Borders. Also, a number of French and Canadian companies operate in the United States.
- Bloomberg News listed French as the "2nd Most Useful Language for Business" in a 2011 study.
- French and English have a lot in common. More than 35% of the English language originated from French, and it is estimated that a person who has never studied French already knows or would recognize over 15,000 words in French.
- Are you interested in art, literature, philosophy or science? France has had a great impact on these areas of study. Monet, Hugo, Descartes, and Curie are only a few of the vast number of French people who have influenced our culture, education and even our daily lives.
- Are you interested in travel? Knowing French comes in handy when travelling in Canada, Europe, Africa and even South America.

Why Mandarin?

- Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world. In the year 2010 there were an estimated 955 million first-language speakers plus 200 million second-language speakers, boasting over a billion speakers in total! Dating back thousands of years, the Chinese language reflects a rich history of cultural traditions and encompasses a vast diversity of people, places, and perspectives.
- The US Department of State identified Chinese as a critical/sought after language. It's easy to see why Chinese is in such high demand, with booming economies all over the world in locations such as Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and of course China, all featuring Mandarin Chinese as a key component. As technology continues to connect the East and the West, more Americans are learning Chinese in order to engage effectively in the global marketplace and pursue international careers in diverse fields such as archaeology, finance, sociology, and medicine.
- The Chinese language is radically different from English in grammatical structures, sound systems and writing systems. While learning Chinese can take considerable more time and effort than learning languages more closely related to English like French, Spanish or German, studying them can make you eligible for funding options like the [Critical Language Scholarship](#) or the National Security Education Program ([NSEP](#)) and open up travel and career options you may have never considered before. Not only do you need to learn a new way of moving your pen, a new way of reading and how to produce foreign sounds from places in your mouth you never knew existed, but you often need to learn to wrap your mind around a different way of thinking, a different worldview.
- Considering roughly 1 out of 6 people in the world speak Chinese and China is a huge market for economic growth, career opportunities for Chinese linguists can be found in almost any field.

Why Spanish?

Spanish is everywhere!

- Are you considering a profession in business? Learning Spanish is rapidly becoming a business necessity. Globally, 400 million people speak Spanish, and 35 million Spanish-speakers live in the United States. In North America, Hispanic consumers represent the fastest-growing market.
- Are you thinking about a profession in healthcare, hospitality, or education? In the United States, knowing Spanish can be particularly helpful if you work in healthcare, hospitality or education.
- The United States' Hispanic population reached 55 million people as of the year 2015. Also, in Europe, Spanish is the second most popular second language, after English.
- Spanish is an official language on four continents and is the primary language of 21 countries. With the growing numbers of Spanish speakers worldwide, learning Spanish is an effective way to bridge the communication gap for future relationships globally.