



White Bear Lake Area Schools Elementary World Language

Elementary World Language Overview

Beginning in the 2012-13 academic year, all WBLAS elementary students have world language experiences in Spanish or Chinese. Students at Lincoln and Vadnais Heights Elementary schools study Chinese, while all other district elementary schools offer Spanish. Students in grades four and five receive 45 minutes of world language instruction every three days. Students in grades K-3 are exposed to world language through experiences, including our partnership with Concordia Language Villages and through the world language teachers and the district's exchange teacher from Hangzhou Foreign Languages School.

A message from our teachers: *Our main focus in world language is communication. The fourth and fifth grade students will gain essential conversation skills and engage in similar units in their home classrooms. There will also be an emphasis placed on use of the target language (Spanish or Chinese) by the teacher and students alike. The use of the target language, not English, during instruction provides an immersive and enriching learning environment. Our hope is that our class will spark an interest for world languages in our students and foster an interest in future language studies. In our classes:*



Teachers will:

- Provide culturally relevant and responsive instruction
- Provide instruction predominately in the target language
- Develop lessons that are engaging and encourage the use of the target language

Students will:

- Develop an open minded perspective to culture and language
- Develop skills to comprehend and use the target language
- Become confident and engage in reading, writing and speaking in the target language

Elementary World Language Curriculum

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) have developed the “5Cs” that form the foundation of our curriculum. The following shows our curriculum in line with these components:

- **Communication**
Students will hear instruction and be expected to communicate with the teacher and each other in the target language.
- **Culture**
Students will explore and learn to appreciate different cultures. Students also will explore celebrations around the world.
- **Connections**
The students will connect language activities with what is being studied in their home classrooms.
- **Comparisons**
The students will compare variances in language and cultural traditions.
- **Community**
The students will be provided opportunities to expand their learning beyond their language classroom.

Common Questions Answered

How often will the fourth and fifth grade classes meet? The students will go to their language classroom within their specialist rotation once every three days for 45 minutes.

What are the long-term goals of the Spanish and Chinese programs? For 2013-14, the District plans to expand the world language instruction to all District elementary students and is also exploring the option of a language immersion program.

Will the fourth and fifth grade students be graded? This year, all students will be graded based on participation. In the future, students will be graded on grade level language standards as well as participation.

How will the elementary world language experience prepare my child for middle school and high school language study?

Research shows that early second language instruction prepares a student to learn any language in later years. In White Bear Lake Area Schools, students may select from and study any language offered at the secondary levels. Middle school students study 3 years of Chinese, French, German or Spanish. High school students can study through level 6 in Chinese, French, German and Spanish (high school and CIS courses) and through 3 levels of American Sign Language.



White Bear Lake Area Schools

Leading minds to learning, hearts to compassion, and lives to community service.