



# Morristown-Beard School

## World Language Department



### **Our Mission:**

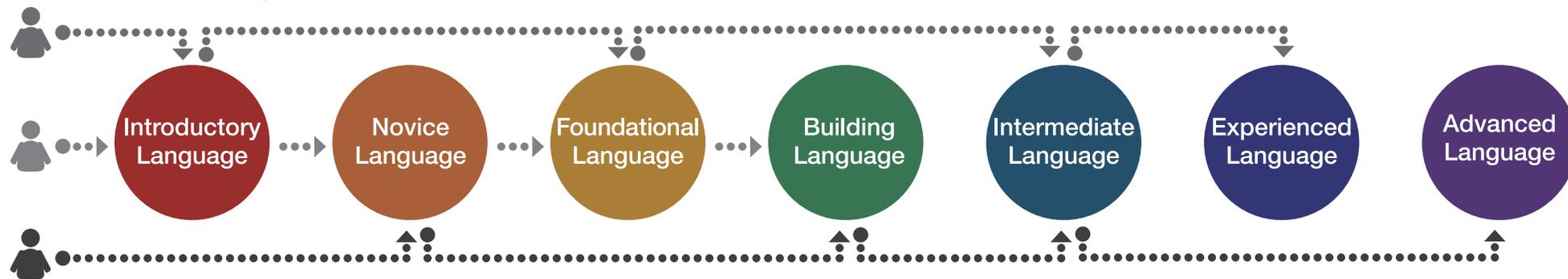
to provide our students with the experience of  
learning a new language  
to cultivate the passion for further pursuit of language  
to open our students' eyes to other cultures

## Individualized Language Sequence

Our curriculum is designed to allow students to move forward through language at a pace that provides them opportunities for success. The courses are defined by performance objectives rather than time spent learning the language. These performance objectives provide information for students about what they must consistently demonstrate to reach a particular level, putting them in control of their own progress. Students can move through the sequence at a pace that fits their language development, advancing past levels if they demonstrate competence in the relevant benchmarks. The levels are described below.

Students who demonstrate extraordinary achievement in their language studies advance to Experienced and Advanced levels.

## Sample Student Trajectories



## Levels

**Introductory language** is characterized by a limited number of single, common repetitive words and phrases that are memorized. Student speak and write using some simple words to provide basic information.

**Foundational language** is characterized by a number of common words and phrases. Students speak and write using phrases and short, simple sentences that provide basic information using original constructions.

**Novice language** is characterized by a limited number of common words and phrases. Students speak and write using some simple words, phrases, and occasional sentences that provide basic information.

**Building language** is characterized by a variety of words or phrases on familiar tasks and topics with some elaboration. Students speak and write using consecutive simple sentences that express thoughts, and they combine words and phrases to create and extend original sentences.

## World Language Mastery Curriculum

The Mastery Curriculum in French, Latin and Spanish at Morristown-Beard School honors two key concepts:

- Empirical research about second language acquisition says that language is acquired through input and practice, not through rules and explanations.
- People acquire language at different rates. Spending a year in language class does not equate to acquiring a specified quantity of language.

**Intermediate language** is characterized by words and expressions on a wide range of topics as well as elaboration with detail. Students speak and write using connected sentences that describe and explain as well as simple sentences combined with connector words. Spanish Through Music and Film is an Intermediate language course.

**Advanced language** is characterized by words and expressions on familiar as well as unfamiliar, concrete topics. Students speak and write using detailed, organized paragraphs across major time frames that narrate, describe or explain. Both traditional AP and Advanced Studies (AS) courses fall under Advanced language.

**Experienced language** is characterized by words and expressions from a wide range of topics and consistent elaboration with much detail and vocabulary. Students speak and write using connected sentences that narrate, describe, or explain while communicating in paragraph length. French Cinema is an Experienced language course.

## Performance Samples

What does language look like at each level? (Errors are representative of authentic language)

**Introductory:** “Summer, sun, warm”

**Novice:** “Summer vacation, hot sun, I like summer.”

**Foundational:** “I love summer. Summer is my favorite season. There is no classes in summer. It is fun.”

**Building:** “My family go to the beach in summer. I swim in the ocean and relax in the beach. Sometimes I bring a friend with me, but sometimes I make new friends at the beach.”

**Intermediate:** “Summer is the best season of the year. The days are long and the weather brings people outside. It is the season when I get to spend the most time with my family, but also sometimes I miss my school friends.”

**Experienced:** “Many families go on vacation in the summer because schools are closed and the weather is suitable for many outdoor activities. People take time off from work to relax or explore. While some families may decide to take a trip somewhere new, others may visit the same destination year after year. Still others to stay home and use the time to relax and catch up on some projects.”

**Advanced:** “Summer is a season marked by longer days and warmer weather. While many believe schools are closed in the summer due to the agricultural calendar, in fact the phenomenon of summer vacation began when urban school districts closed in the hottest months in response to the human and financial costs of operating in the heat and the low attendance due to ritual decamping to the countryside of more privileged students. What will you and your family do this summer to take advantage of this relic from the late 18th century?”

## MBS Language Requirement

In order to graduate, students must take three consecutive years of the same language in upper school.

## Find Out More

Learn more about our offerings by looking at our curriculum guide at [www.mbs.net](http://www.mbs.net).

## Contact us

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