



WORLD LANGUAGES CERTIFICATE

Purpose

- To recognize students who concentrate their academic program in World Languages and who go above and beyond the graduation requirement in this subject area.
- To encourage students to consider the benefits of studying two world languages simultaneously during Upper School.

Certificate Components

There are three required components to the World Languages Certificate program:

- 1) The **formal study of two world languages** beyond the beginning level.
- 2) A **project** designed to apply your language skills outside the classroom.
- 3) A culminating **oral presentation in both languages**.

PART 1: Formal Language Study

Two of the following languages may be chosen: Greek, Arabic, Chinese, French, Latin, Russian or Spanish

Certificate Levels	Total Credits	Language 1	Language 2
<i>summa cum laude</i>	8	4 credits	4 credits
<i>magna cum laude</i>	7	4 credits	3 credits
<i>cum laude</i>	6	4 credits	2 credits
	6	3 credits	3 credits

Requirements:

- Language classes may be regular, honors or AP level.
- A student must be enrolled in a tri-school class to earn credit for the Certificate. Other course work in a world language may be eligible for credit, pending approval of the Department.
- Language levels prior to Upper School do not count towards the Certificate.
- A student must achieve a minimum overall average of 80 in all world language courses; year-end grades are used in the calculation.
- A student may not repeat a level of a language, and no credit will be awarded if a year-end average is below 72.

PART 2: Extension of Language Study

The World Languages Certificate recognizes students who demonstrate commitment both to the academic study of language and to the values that are inherent to language learning. The culminating extension piece consists of a student-designed project that combines both languages studied with other disciplines of interest to the student. It is the hope of the World Languages Department that the design and implementation of the project will enhance the student's critical thinking and communication skills and reinforce their desire to become an engaged world citizen.

The requirements include:

- Create and carry out an approved project of choice.
- Identify a theme/issue as it relates to a language that you study.
- Reflect with a mentor, research, raise awareness, and present the final oral report.

Examples of themes include: Social Justice, Literature in Translation, and Oral History. More details about the projects can be found [here](#).

A student may select any member of the World Languages Department to serve as a mentor in fulfillment of this component. The certificate candidates will be able to work on their projects during a scheduled afternoon period in the first semester of senior year.

PART 3: Oral Presentation

To demonstrate proficiency in both languages, candidates will display their mastery of the languages in an oral presentation:

- Students must speak naturally and without reading during the presentation (students may use notecards but no written scripts)
- Presentation must include both languages in proportion to the length of study, and the whole presentation must be a minimum of six minutes in length; and include visual components such as a PowerPoint
- Presentations will be made to teachers of both languages, members of the World Languages Department, and invited guests (parents, friends, advisors, etc.)

You will present to the World Languages Department in your two languages (in proportion to your years of study in each language) about your experience. You should cover:

- a) Why you chose the topic
- b) What you learned about the topic
- c) How you engaged the community about the topic

At the end of the presentation, you may be asked to reflect (in English) about how your second languages helped you to see the issue through a different lens.

All members of the World Languages Department will monitor the progress of candidates and support the Certificate Program. The Upper School Department Chair will serve as the administrator of the program.

Students earning the World Languages Certificate will receive recognition on Class Day.