



World Languages



St. Xavier HS

Welcome!

St. Xavier High School offers 5 languages for incoming freshmen:

Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish.

We also offer **Greek** and **Portuguese** as electives for seniors.

St. Xavier requires that every student complete the third-year level of his chosen world language.

Many of our students opt for a fourth-year AP course, and some may even take a fifth-year course if they qualify.

Please contact Sarah Jackson, chair of the World Languages Department, at sjackson@stxavier.org if you have any questions.

Chinese

Chinese class is active, hands-on and engaging! Did you know that Chinese grammar is simpler than English grammar? When you take Chinese, you will join a large community. Twenty percent of the world speaks a Chinese dialect. As such, Chinese is the most-used language in the world and is also an important language for international business. Knowledge of the language will also introduce you to the culture of the world's oldest civilizations.

French

French is more than simply "the language of love." It is also an international language of business and opens doors to global communication. Other than English, French is the only other language officially spoken on 6 continents, including 20+ countries in Africa. It is the official worldwide language of diplomacy and 80+ international organizations, including: the UN, EU, NATO, UNESCO, the Olympics & the Red Cross.

German

Of the languages offered at St. Xavier High School, German has the most in common with English - over 5000 words! After English, German is the second-most commonly-used scientific language, since Germany is a global innovator in engineering and physics. Considering that Germany is the strongest economy in Europe, German is also a must for international business! Many St. X students have German ancestors just one or two generations back – learn how to speak German with your Oma!

Latin

With Latin, you are opting for a path of rich culture as well as immense utility. By far the easiest foreign language to pronounce (no silent letters, no weird rules and exceptions), Latin also has countless practical applications, since roughly 60% of English vocabulary derives from Latin. (That number only increases in specialized fields like medicine and law!) Moreover, while all languages have great literature, only Latin guarantees you direct contact with its masterpieces during your high school years.

Spanish

Did you know that Spanish is the official language of 21 different countries across the globe? Roughly 23% of the United States' population speaks Spanish. Contrary to what you may have heard, Spanish is certainly not the "easiest" language to learn; it is just as challenging as any other language and takes dedication and effort to master. However, if you are considering a career in social work, law, or medicine, Spanish will help you communicate with those you serve.