

ICCSD World Language Department offers a five-year language program to all students in the district. Students have the option of taking FRENCH or SPANISH. Students can begin the program in the 8th grade and continue throughout high school.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Is there any difference between language classes at the junior high and high school?**
 - ✓ No, the junior high Level 1 follows the same curriculum as the high school program. Successful completion of the Level 1 language at junior high is equivalent to Level 1 in high school.
- **What does my child register for in high school if he/she successfully completes Level 1 at the junior high school?**
 - ✓ Level 2 or 2H
- **What are the benefits of beginning a language in junior high?**
 - ✓ By beginning language study in junior high, a student has the possibility of completing a five-year level sequence of language study.
- **What if my child is not ready to begin a language in junior high?**
 - ✓ Not a problem! Students can register for Level 1 of a language as a freshman (sophomore or junior).
- **How do I know if my student is ready to study a foreign language?**
 - ✓ There are many factors to take into account when making this decision. Some might be...
 - How well does your child complete work at home and practice daily?
 - How much study time do you anticipate your child will need to complete schoolwork?
 - Is your student ready for a new challenge?
 - ✓ The "right" decision is doing what is right for your child.
- **Who do I contact if I have questions?**
 - ✓ Junior High Counselors at your school
 - ✓ High School Counselors at the future school
 - ✓ World Language Curriculum Coordinator: Carmen Gwenigale (gwenigale.carmen@iowacityschools.org)

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Reasons your child should learn a

WORLD LANGUAGE



LEARNING EARLY MATTERS

Like a sponge, children have a much easier time absorbing information early in their cognitive development compared to in their adult years.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Whether it's future job opportunities or simply making new friends along the way, learning a new language will open many new doors.



IT'S FUN!

Exploring new cultures and learning how to interact with people in different languages is both exciting and rewarding.



ENHANCED COGNITIVE SKILLS

As your child learns a new language, the brain literally rewires itself. This not only helps language development but will also accelerate performance in other areas, such as math skills or playing a musical instrument.



INCREASED CONFIDENCE

Mastering a skill, like a new language, is a huge accomplishment. Bilingual children and their parents often report heightened confidence and self-esteem.

World Language Placement/Advancement FAQs

➤ Who needs to take the World Language Placement Exam?

- Any student who would like to take a world language class at a level above Level 1, without having the formal instruction of the previous level (i.e. the student who does not show previous level(s) on his/her transcript), should take the placement exam. The student will be placed into the level that best meets his/her needs.

➤ When should the placement test be taken?

- The test should be taken prior to the start of the school year and on the designated test date. If the student is new to the district, and has not taken a language course, she/he will be required to take a placement test at registration.

Listening

Process, understand, interpret and evaluate spoken language in a variety of situations

Speaking

Engage in oral communication in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences

Reading

Process, understand, interpret and evaluate written language, symbols and text with understanding and fluency

Writing

Engage in written communication in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences

➤ What are college/university language requirements?

- Most universities in Iowa require students to complete **Level 2** of one world language to be **admitted**. Proficiency at Level 4 is required for **exemption** from a university language class.
- However, prior acceptance to a particular college within a university, like the College of Engineering (for example), might require Level 4 proficiency for **admittance**. Most colleges look at the **highest level completed**, not the number of years completed. It is important to check the requirements of your preferred universities.

➤ What should be considered when skipping levels?

- The upper levels require proficiency and fluency in speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Grammar is also more advanced and in depth.
- Knowing how to speak the language does not necessarily mean knowing how to write in the language.
- Additionally, the work at the upper levels requires more time and dedication to the subject.
- The majority of the students in levels 3 and beyond will be upper-classmen, so there will be an age gap.
- As a freshman, the student may already experience challenges in adapting to the high school rhythm, and starting at a higher level might add to the stress load.
- All placement tests, regardless of level, will assess the student's ability in the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Most common sequence:

8th grade	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
Spanish 1 French 1	Spanish 2/2H French 2/2H	Spanish 3/3H French 3/3H	Spanish 4 or AP Spanish French 4 or AP French	Spanish 5 Seal of Biliteracy French 5 Seal of Biliteracy

Alternative sequences:

8th grade	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
no language study	Spanish 1 French 1	Spanish 2/2H French 2/2H	Spanish 3/3H French 3/3H	Spanish 4 or AP Spanish French 4 or AP French
Spanish 2/2H** French 2/2H **	Spanish 3/3H French 3/3H	Spanish 4 or AP Spanish French 4 or AP French	Spanish 5 Seal /AP Spanish French 5 Seal/AP French	PSEO* at the University of Iowa

NOTE: ** For this option, the student has to successfully complete a placement test. If placed at the advanced level, the student is required to have personal transportation to and from their designated high school. Students are also limited by scheduling and class sizes.

*PSEO = Post-Secondary Enrollment Options