



## **World Languages Department Lick-Wilmerding High School 2024-2025**

In today's interdependent world, communication and interaction with people in their own languages helps build positive relationships. In addition to the practical benefits of speaking other languages, knowledge of another language encourages different ways of viewing the world we share. The World Languages department is committed to promoting oral and written fluency while exposing students to the history and cultures of diverse regions united by a common language.

### **World Languages Mission**

We seek to develop confident, resilient language practitioners who:

- ❖ develop skills about how to learn a language using different modalities,
- ❖ are not afraid to take risks,
- ❖ recognize that speaking is equally as important as writing,
- ❖ accept the challenge of reading for general content when they do not understand every word,
- ❖ apply the writing skills they've developed in all subject areas to the work they do in other languages,
- ❖ have tools for approaching literary texts,
- ❖ respect diversity within a linguistic group as well as individual countries,
- ❖ make connections between language learning and other disciplines,
- ❖ recognize the need for real world application and practice of language skills,
- ❖ demonstrate skills in the five Cs: communication, connection, culture, community, and comparison.

### **Our classes**

Class activities are designed to address various learning styles and may include pair and small group work, games, student-led classes, student presentations, skits and role- plays, student-made videos and podcasts and research projects.



The department strives for student success by placing incoming 9th graders in the appropriate class for their skill level and by giving all students the support they need to feel confident and proficient in the target language. The large percentage of students who continue studying the language beyond the graduation requirement demonstrates their commitment. Certain courses fulfill the 11th and 12th grade requirement for the Public Purpose Program.

## Languages Offered

Chinese (Mandarin)	French	Spanish
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Chinese 1</li><li>● Chinese 2</li><li>● Chinese 3</li><li>● Chinese 4 Honors</li><li>● Chinese 5/6 Honors PPP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● French 1</li><li>● French 2</li><li>● French 3</li><li>● French 4 Honors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Spanish 1</li><li>● Spanish 2</li><li>● Spanish 2 Accelerated</li><li>● Spanish 3</li><li>● Spanish 3 Honors</li><li>● Spanish 4</li><li>● Spanish 4 Honors</li><li>● Spanish 5 Honors</li><li>● Spanish for Spanish Speakers</li></ul>

## Graduation Requirements

- 3 years of study in the department and minimum level 3 attainment.

## Placement Exams

- Given to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in late April/early May through a written test and an interview. We place students where we feel they will be most successful, which sometimes means they might review some material they have been exposed to in prior classes in order to increase proficiency in other essential areas.



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What if my student is a fluent/heritage speaker?**

Students who have already reached an advanced level of one language may take the placement test in that language to see what courses will be available to them; or they may opt to begin another of the languages we offer.

We also offer a Spanish for Spanish Speakers class. It is a one-year opt-in program, after which those students may go into an advanced Spanish class if they choose. See the course catalog for details.

### **Can a student get LWHS credit for a language studied outside LWHS?**

We do not give any credit for languages studied prior to attending Lick, except through placement. Placement is based solely on the placement test with no regard to years of study. Concurrent enrollment in a language course at another institution will not get Lick-Wilmerding credit.

### **What if a student has never studied a second language or has no experience with the languages offered here ?**

Many of our students have never studied a second language (or have studied a language not offered here) and we design our entry-level classes to be sensitive to their needs and provide support in the areas where they require it.

### **Can a student double in language?**

A student may only take two languages concurrently in the senior year.