

7th Grade French, Spanish, and German

Course Description:

The 7th grade World Language courses serve as an introduction to the language and culture of the target language-speaking world. They focus on mastering the sound system, verb structures in the present tense, and acquiring a basic communicative vocabulary. The emphasis in the class is on proficiency in the spoken language; therefore, daily participation in the group discussion is required. Students will continue with the language in 8th grade for high school credit. This is a one semester course.

Curriculum Work So Far:

1. Discussed the end goals for students in the WL program and steps to achieve those goals.
2. Discussed the amount of time allotted to the exploratory courses and how that would affect our decision making in terms of what is most important to cover during the time we have with the students.
3. Drafted a curricular scope & sequence of 2 units for the semester that aligns with the AP themes.

Unit 1: An Introduction to the German Language and Culture

Unit 2: The Influence of Language and Culture on Identity

4. Developed enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals in alignment with the Missouri World Language Learning Standards. The enduring understandings and essential questions that drive the course are listed below. Additionally, the exploratory unit has specific enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals.

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Learning about other cultures benefits us as individuals in a larger society.
- Language study is a window to discovering the norms, values, and cultural qualities of a people and their culture.
- The study of a world language and the ability to communicate with it foster a life-long appreciation and an open mind for cultures different from our own.

Course Essential Questions:

- How does learning a language help me understand cultures that are different from my own?
- How am I part of a global community?
- How will I use my language skills outside of the classroom?
- How can I be competitive in a world job market?
- How does language connect individuals and cultures promoting empathy and tolerance?

Student Learning Overview:

- This is a semester-long course and is considered the first part of Spanish I. Students remain in the same language for 8th grade, after which time they receive high school credit for Spanish I.
- The goal of the World Language Department is to attract students to stay in the program throughout high school. In order to prepare them for upper levels, units of study are based on the same AP themes throughout the entire program. This provides them with the necessary foundation to be successful later in the program as students gradually build their confidence level and language skills related to each theme.