

World Language

French A

Year-long course

French A offers the opportunity to begin the exploration of the French language, which connects students to 175 million French speakers in more than 50 countries. Our exploration of Francophone culture will include Quebec, the Caribbean, West and North Africa, and Europe. Throughout this course, students will focus on all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) through a wide range of activities including pair and group work, role-playing, listening, and reading. Students will be corresponding with French “epals” throughout the year, thus offering real-life applications to students’ growing language capacities. A field trip to a French immersion weekend at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, MN will also be offered as well as the opportunity to host a French student for 10 days in the Spring or 3 weeks over the summer. Vocabulary topics include: introductions, description, preferences, numbers, colors, time, family, school, weather, seasons, months, and daily routine. Grammar topics include: present and immediate future tenses for essential verbs, possessive adjectives, and adjective/noun agreement. Students will also read mini-novels in French: Brandon Brown Veut Un Chien.

French B

Prerequisite French A

Year-long course

French B offers 8th graders the opportunity to continue their exploration of the French language as well as the Francophone culture. Throughout this course, students will focus on all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and culture through a wide range of activities including pair/group work, role-playing, listening, and reading. Students will continue their correspondence with French “epals” throughout the year and will also have the opportunity to host a French student for 10 days in the Spring or 3 weeks over the summer. An opportunity to attend an immersion weekend at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, MN will also be offered. Vocabulary topics explored include: café food, clothing, shopping, house, places in a town, and travel. Grammar topics include: a review of all verbs studied in French A, additional irregular verbs, and le passé composé tense. Students will do units on Paris monuments and art history. Students will also read mini-novels in French: Brandon Brown Le Nouvel Houdini and Alice la Liste and watch a mini-series, "Rendez-vous à Nice".

German I

Year-long course

Learn to speak German, the language of engineers, scientists, and musicians, in an interactive and engaging environment! German I offers students a multi-faceted approach to learning German by focusing on the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will produce basic conversations to express their feelings and exchange opinions on common, everyday topics such as personalities, school, food, family hobbies, and clothing. At the same time, students will experience German culture and history. A variety of methods and resources are used, including readings, videos, and music, as well as authentic audio and reading exercises.

Spanish A

Year-long course

Spanish A introduces students to the Spanish-speaking world. This introductory course focuses on building students' working vocabulary, speaking skills, and writing skills through various interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational learning activities. Students will communicate with real pen pals as they will be able to ask and answer questions and give information regarding the following themes: hobbies and free time, descriptions, school life, mealtime, places in the community, invitations, making plans, and sports. Movies, stories, and music are extensive tools used to teach acquisition. Students will explore the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and become more aware of the diversity of cultures around the globe. As a cumulative activity, students will read, interpret, and retell a novice mid-level novel in the last quarter.

Spanish B

Prerequisite: Spanish A

Year-long course

Spanish B expands students' knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will explore the global influence of the Spanish language and cultures through news sources, stories, music, and movies. Students will continue to work in the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Specific themes of study include the family, shopping and clothing, vacation and travel, entertainment, and the environment with an increased focus on vocabulary acquisition. Past tense structures are also introduced. Students will acquire pen pals from a Spanish-speaking country in the second semester to interact with a native Spanish speaker while demonstrating advanced communication skills, reading comprehension, and sentence structure. As a cumulative activity, students will read, interpret, and retell a novice high-level novel in the last quarter.