PUSD World Language Pathways

PUSD offers World Languages courses in Spanish, French, and Chinese (Mandarin).

World Language Courses

- WL Foundations is an introductory course to Spanish, French or Chinese. It is a 1-semester course for 6th, 7th, or 8th graders at PMS. It is not a prerequisite for future language classes.
- Language Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 & AP are full-year, high school-level, academically rigorous courses. They are available in 7th-12th grade. Successful completion is a prerequisite to continuing to the next level.

For Middle School Students and Families

- The PMS bell schedule has fewer instructional minutes than the high school bell schedule. Full-year language courses at PMS will cover the entire high school course content, as indicated by the 'HS Paced' notation on the visual below.
- Language is not required at PMS, so consider your student's academic progress and readiness for an additional class that will increase your child's homework load and academic expectations. We also recommend students have a solid understanding of their study habits and organization skills before starting a language elective.
- AP Language (Level 5) requires a student to start in middle school or skip ahead with a placement test.
- 1 year of a WL course is required to graduate from PHS/MHS. WL classes taken during middle school do not fulfill this requirement. It must be taken during a student's time in 9th-12th grade. If you start WL in 7th grade and complete Level 1 & 2 at PMS, you will still need to complete Level 3 at PHS to fulfill the graduation requirement.

For High School Students and Families

- Spanish 1 is offered at PHS/MHS for students who wish to start a language in high school.
- Chinese & French 1 classes are taught at PMS and are available for 9th-12th graders to take. High school students who wish to start French or Chinese can take the course on the PMS campus.

Piedmont Middle School			**Piedmont High School / Millennium High School**			
6th Grade	**7th Grade**	**8th Grade**	**9th Grade**	**10th Grade**	**11th Grade**	**12th Grade**
WL Foundations *1 semester* **not a pre-req course*	HS Paced Level 1 *Full year*	Level II at PHS *Full year*	Level III *Full year*	Level IV *Full year*	AP *Full year*	----------
	WL Foundations *1 semester* **not a pre-req course*	HS Paced Level I *Full year*	Level II *Full year*	Level III *Full year*	Level IV *Full year*	AP *Full year*
		WL Foundations *1 semester* **not a pre-req course*	Level I *Full year*	Level II *Full year*	Level III *Full year*	Level IV *Full year*
				Level I *Full year*	Level II *Full year*	Level III *Full year*

Language Placement Testing

- Available to heritage speakers or those with previous language experience.
- The placement tests will assess a student's mastery of the Essential Learning Outcomes for listening, reading, writing, and speaking. World Language "I Can" Statements
- Currently enrolled PUSD students: A test is available each February
- New students to the district: A test is available in August, before school starts

Placement Test Results Recommendations from the Language Department

- For middle school students who test and place into a higher-level language class, the World Language Department recommends they delay their language and take other PMS electives while in middle school.
- Accelerating beyond 1 grade level in a world language class is not recommended by the WL Department. This is to ensure students have received instruction in the mechanics of writing in their English/Language Arts classes, which are essential skills to master before taking higher-level language courses.
- Be aware that students who accelerate to a language class at PHS will have to navigate different bell schedules and school calendars between the two campuses. Refer to this document to know more: Supporting PMS Students Attending a PHS Class

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