



# World Language FAQ's

*Bonjour!*

*¡Hola!*

- **What languages are offered in 8<sup>th</sup> grade?**
  - ✓ French & Spanish
- **Is there any difference between language classes at the junior high and high school?**
  - ✓ Yes, in junior high, Level 1 is accelerated during 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Successful completion of the Level 1 language 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 5 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 (or sophomore, junior or senior!).
- **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 needing and having 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
    - North Central: Tonya McDonough
    - Northwest: Jacob Adams / Michele Sadler
    - South East: Hanna Collins / Brian Ingram
  - ✓ World Language Curriculum Coordinator: Carmen Gwenigale

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# 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(s) (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 on the designated test date. If the student is new to the district and has not taken a language course, s/he will be required to take a placement test at registration.

## What are college/university language requirements?

Most universities in Iowa require students to complete **Level 2** of one world language to be **admitted** and require proficiency at Level 4 for **exemption** from a university language class and for **graduation**. 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 (Knowing how to speak the language does not necessarily mean knowing how to write in the language). Grammar is also more advanced and in depth.
- 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 4 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
none or other language of interest	Spanish 1 or French 1	Spanish 2/2H or French 2/2H	Spanish 3/3H or French 3/3H	Spanish 4 or AP French French 4 or AP Spanish
**Spanish 2/2H French 2/2H (if student takes placement exam)	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	PSEO for a language class at the University of Iowa

\*\* For this option, the student has 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