

"WITH LANGUAGES, YOU ARE AT HOME ANYWHERE" – EDWARD DE WAAL

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, GROW

Expand your opportunities with foreign language study.



The World Languages Department of ICCSD is thrilled to offer **French and Spanish** language study in our secondary schools. Learning a different language is a beneficial and unique experience. It combines skills that students learn in all their core disciplines with language acquisition. The World Language classroom is the main vehicle for learning a language. Students learn languages through interactive activities and in-depth discussions. Students are highly encouraged to explore language opportunities in the classroom setting and within their community.

Top reasons to study a foreign language:

- Business skills plus foreign language skills make an employee more valuable in the marketplace. One is at a distinct advantage in the global market if one is as bilingual as possible.
- Graduates often cite foreign language courses as some of the most valuable courses in college because of the communication skills developed in the process.
- International travel is much easier and more pleasant through knowing a foreign language.
- Foreign language study enhances one's opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc.

- Four out of five new jobs in the US are created as a result of foreign trade. Your marketable skills in the global economy are improved if you master another language.
- Foreign languages provide a competitive edge in career choices. Employers appreciate when a candidate is able to communicate in a second language.
- The study of foreign languages teaches and encourages respect for others. It fosters cultural understanding and the appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Foreign languages open the door to art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, film, philosophy, science...

How do I make a language selection?

The decision of foreign language to study is an important one, and is often one of the first big academic decisions in which the student has some input. There are several factors you should consider when choosing a foreign language as an 8th grade student: **learning options, difficulty level, personal preference, and future goals in life.** The best part about deciding what language to learn is that once you've acquired the basic skills of one romance language, you can learn another more easily. You can even learn two languages simultaneously, if you're up for a challenge.

Don't limit yourself!



Travel to Spain and Costa Rica

ICCSD students can travel to Spain and Costa Rica for 10 days when they are in Level 3 through Level 5 of a Spanish language study. The trips includes visits to a variety of cities and locations and a family stay experience.



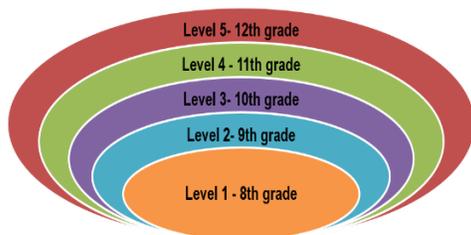
Travel to France

ICCSD students can travel to France for 10 days when they are in Level 3 through Level 5 of a French language study. The trips includes visits to cities in France and a family stay experience.

Points to Consider

Start Early, Finish Strong

A student's class selection should be guided first by teacher recommendation. World Language teachers work hard to make thoughtful and professional recommendations that set the student up for future success. When a student is considering taking an honors or AP Level class, or advance a language level, we look closely at each student's individual situation, including current achievement, learning style, and motivation level. It is important to also consider workload in other classes, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and family demands.



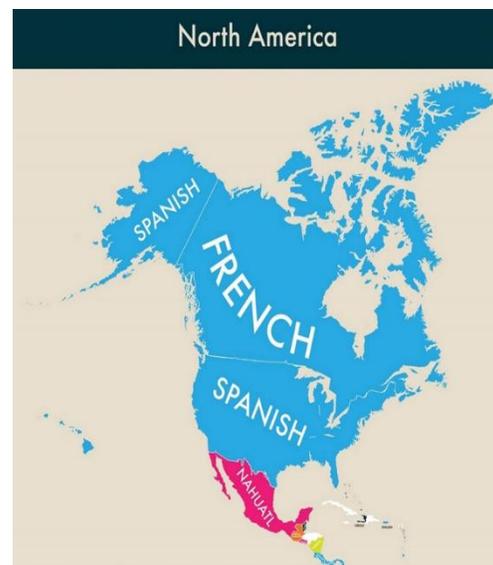
Language Progression

Our thematic-based curriculum is focused on building communicative competence; strengthening the ability to communicate effectively and in culturally appropriate ways. We focus on improving our learners' proficiency in the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Each course provides a strong foundation for the next language level and offering. The courses are designed to provide students with the fundamentals necessary to succeed at the next language level. As such, they should be taken in sequence.

Advancing a language

Incoming 8th grade Junior High students are eligible to take a placement exam in order to take a Spanish or French Level 2 class at the High School. **Students have to take the exam on the reserved date for Placement Exams. Dates may vary based on the high school** so it is very important to communicate with the counselors at the intended high school if they want to begin classes in the fall of the incoming school year. **8th grade students must provide their own**

personal transportation to and from the designated high school. All high school students are eligible to take a placement test in order to advance a language level. Advancement is based on the student's ability to perform above average in the skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking.



On-level and Honors Courses

The decision to enroll in an on-level or honors language course is very personal and important. Students and their parents/guardians should carefully consider the teacher's recommendation, as well as student's interest level in the language, intrinsic motivation, learning style, and demands outside of school. Decisions should not be based on staff. Teaching assignments may change from year to year. It is important to make this choice during course scheduling the year before because it is difficult to change classes after the school year starts. This is especially true for changes from an honors-level to an on-level class.

On-Level courses:

- More emphasis is put on strengthening the basics—more practice with vocabulary, grammar, and language production.
- Pacing of instruction has more accommodations than in honors classes
- Instruction involves more scaffolding and guided learning.

Honors courses:

- Move at a quicker pace.
- Additional thematic units.
- Do more in-depth assignments that require application of the 4 language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
- Features more rigorous and performance based assessments.

- Teachers encourage students to use the target language more
- Pre-AP strategies are implemented.
- More complex language production expected

World Language Readiness Standards

COMMUNICATION: Communicate effectively in more than one language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes.

CULTURES: Interact with cultural competence and understanding.

CONNECTIONS: Connect with other disciplines and acquire information and diverse perspectives in order to use the language to function in academic and career related situations.

COMPARISONS: Develop insight into the nature of language and culture in order to interact with cultural competence.

COMMUNITIES: Communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

COMMUNICATION: Interpretive Communication; Interpersonal Communication; Presentational Communication

CONNECTIONS: Making Connections; Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives

CULTURES: Relating Cultural Practices to Perspectives; Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives

COMPARISONS: Language Comparisons; Cultural Connections

COMMUNITIES: School and Global Communities; Lifelong Learning