

1. Are you expected to be fluent in the language you chose?

There is no expectation of knowing any of the language for freshmen entering level 1. Each year you will become more proficient. Each student is unique, but here are the norms for each year of study.

- 1 year (novice mid) can understand memorized words in very short chunks
- 2 years (novice high) can understand and communicate in basic sentences on familiar topics
- 3 years (intermediate low) can understand and communicate in larger sentences on unfamiliar topics
- 4 years (intermediate high) can string together sentences

As a senior you can take an in-school test to earn the seal of biliteracy. To earn you must be at an intermediate-mid level of proficiency. More than half of our students met this requirement.

2. Can we take more than one language at a time?

Yes! Please do. Since the languages are so connected, learning them together will be easier. Also this will make you more desirable to colleges. You can take two languages at any point, including freshmen year. I have several this year as freshmen and they are at the top of the class. You will just need to be very mindful of scheduling with other graduation requirements.

3. Can you finish language early in high school?

Technically you can “finish” after a year. However you should continue beyond that both for college admissions and to achieve some proficiency. Also, the first year of a language is far from the most interesting. Each of the languages leaves the best parts for more advanced students.

4. Can you switch from language to language each year?

This is NOT recommended. In a year, you are only communicating at the word level. Being able to do this in multiple languages is not as beneficial as being proficient in one language. Colleges will not view these switches favorably. Their language requirements generally specify X years in the SAME language.

5. How are the classes graded?

Each teacher can grade at his or her own discretion.

6. How much homework is there for language classes?

Again, this is at an individual teacher’s discretion.

7. How much of the class period is in the target language?

Latin is taught entirely in English. Spanish, French and German use the target language more and more as you progress. A freshman level 1 ADV class will include a lot of English whereas V AP may use none. Again, this is also at the teacher’s discretion.

Popular schools with years of foreign languages required

- 1 year
 - Drexel
- 2 years
 - Rutgers
 - University of Delaware
 - Rowan
 - Monmouth
 - Lehigh
 - University of Maryland
 - Quinnipiac
 - Seton Hall
- 3 years
 - TCNJ
 - Penn State
 - Montclair
 - James Madison
 - Virginia Tech
 - Villanova
 - Syracuse
- 4 years
 - Northeastern
 - University of Vermont
 - Boston University
 - Princeton



8. How often do you have the language class?

Language classes have the same frequency and length as all others. Languages are full year courses. We are on a four-day-rotating block schedule with 55 minute periods. This freshmen student has Spanish 3rd period and no Latin on A days, Latin period 1 and no Spanish on B days, Spanish period 1 and Latin period 2 on C days, Spanish period 2 and Latin period 3 on D days. It's confusing for about two weeks and then you'll get used to it.

	A - A	B - B	C - C	D - D
01-01	370-002 Phys Ed 09 Boiaash, Nicole GYM2	321-001 Latin I ADV Bernard-Mason, Amy 262	343-004 Spanish II ADV Rojas, Joel 257	623 F-003 Biology HWt Hance, Laurie 237
02-02	623 F-003 Biology HWt Hance, Laurie 337	370-002 Phys Ed 09 Boiaash, Nicole GYM2	321-001 Latin I ADV Bernard-Mason, Amy 262	343-004 Spanish II ADV Rojas, Joel 257
03-03	343-004 Spanish II ADV Rojas, Joel 257	623 F-003 Biology HWt Hance, Laurie 337	370-002 Phys Ed 09 Boiaash, Nicole GYM2	321-001 Latin I ADV Bernard-Mason, Amy 262
L1-L1	9653-09S1-L1BCD Directed Study Grade 09 Semester 1 Bischoff, B, Neighbor, C 311	9653-09S1-L1BCD Directed Study Grade 09 Semester 1 Hance, Laurie 337	9653-09S1-L1BCD Directed Study Grade 09 Semester 1 Bischoff, B, Neighbor, C 311	9653-09S1-L1BCD Directed Study Grade 09 Semester 1 Bischoff, B, Neighbor, C 311
L2-L2	99051-001 Lunch Semester 1 Kent, C, Hintz, H, DeRobbio, M, Collins, M, Leonelli, K, Kir CAFE	99051-001 Lunch Semester 1 Kent, C, Hintz, H, DeRobbio, M, Collins, M, Leonelli, K, Kir CAFE	99051-001 Lunch Semester 1 Kent, C, Hintz, H, DeRobbio, M, Collins, M, Leonelli, K, Kir CAFE	99051-001 Lunch Semester 1 Kent, C, Hintz, H, DeRobbio, M, Collins, M, Leonelli, K, Kir CAFE
04-04	732-002 Early American History HWt O'Steen, Jennifer 312	146-002 Photo I Carmelia, Almee 240	523-002 Geometry HWt Pessin, Yosef 321	213-001 English I HWt Davis, Mark 225
05-05	213-001 English I HWt Davis, Mark 225	732-002 Early American History HWt O'Steen, Jennifer 312	146-002 Photo I Carmelia, Almee 240	523-002 Geometry HWt Pessin, Yosef 321
06-06	523-002 Geometry HWt Pessin, Yosef 321	213-001 English I HWt Davis, Mark 225	732-002 Early American History HWt O'Steen, Jennifer 312	146-002 Photo I Carmelia, Almee 240

9. If you don't like a language, can you switch?

You can transfer classes for the first three weeks of the school year with no penalty. After that, unless there are major extenuating circumstances, it becomes a drop-fail. This is why you need to think carefully about your decision.

10. What are the language choices?

French, German, Latin and Spanish.

11. What are the levels of language classes offered?

French and German (1 ADV, 2 ADV, 3 Honors, 4 Honors)

Latin (1 ADV, 2 ADV, 3 Honors, 4 AP)

Spanish (1 CP or ADV, 2 ADV, 3 ADV or Honors, 4 Honors, 5 Honors or AP)

12. What language is the hardest?

There's no single answer to that. Each language is different and will be "harder" for different students. Some things to consider:

- German, Spanish and Latin are phonetic meaning words are pronounced like they're spelled.
- Each of the languages share vocabulary with English: Latin and German 60%, Spanish 40%, French 30%.
- German and Latin are highly inflected meaning words will change endings to show meaning.
- French and Spanish use a word order similar to English.
- French, German and Spanish are living languages so you'll be learning four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) at a fairly slow speed.
- Latin is all reading so you will move much quicker.

13. What level of the language do freshmen start at?

You may start any language at level 1. Spanish students also have the option of starting at level 2.

14. Why do we have to take a language in high school?

1 year of a language is a state graduation requirement. Multiple years are usually required for college admissions. Many future jobs give greater weight to bilingual candidates. All of this is because we do not live in a bubble. It is important to communicate with people all over the world.

WHY LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT

IN OUR GROWING GLOBAL ECONOMY, KNOWING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE ENHANCES OUR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS ABROAD, IMPROVES GLOBAL COMMUNICATION, AND MAINTAINS AMERICA'S SECURITY INTERESTS

PEOPLE WITH FOREIGN LANGUAGES SKILLS HAVE BETTER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IMPROVES CREATIVITY AND INCREASES PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

STUDENTS WITH 3 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE WERE MORE LIKELY TO EARN BETTER GRADES IN COLLEGE & LESS LIKELY TO DROP OUT



15. Why is Mandarin, ASL, Italian, etc not offered?

The four languages we offer have been in place for decades, have qualified teachers in place and class sizes are large enough at each level to meet state requirements. Adding more languages without an increase in student population would jeopardize these established classes. While we did briefly offer Mandarin, the class sizes were too small to be feasible.

16. Can you travel abroad?

To the liability issues, teachers do not take students abroad during the school year. However, there are still options (a) look into [programs](#) yourself (b) there are occasional summer trips arranged by teachers but not through the school e.g. Quebec for French students in 2018 or Spain in 2013