

WORLD LANGUAGES

SIXTH GRADE

All Grade 6 students will be exposed to three languages on a rudimentary level during the course of a marking period. Students will learn about the geography, language, culture, and history of French, Spanish, and Chinese speaking countries in a ten week program. Using technology, print resources, Total Physical Response activities, and cooperative learning techniques, students will be able to sample three of the most widely used languages and rich cultures in the world. As students master map skills, make cultural connections and comparisons, learn core vocabulary, and experience cultural celebrations, they will become knowledgeable young learners with the ability to choose a suitable program of advanced language study in middle and high school. This innovative program is designed to foster skill development, language acquisition, and cultural sensitivity.

SEVENTH GRADE

All Grade 7 students will participate in a half-year World Language course, consisting of French, Spanish, or Chinese; each designed to support the New Jersey World Languages Student Learning Standards. Instruction will focus on two areas of study—communication and culture. Communication activities will engage the students in knowing how, when and why to say what to whom. Students will learn how to create and respond to simple phrases, questions, and sentences; describe people, places, and events with some detail; generate and respond to short messages; interact in social settings; express details of everyday lives; engage in original conversation and organize thoughts into oral speech. The cultural aspect of the course will encourage students to compare the customs of their own culture and the target culture; understand the role of stereotyping in prejudice and demonstrate an awareness of contributions made by men and women in diverse cultures.

EIGHTH GRADE

All Grade 8 students will continue to participate in a half-year World Language course, consisting of French, Spanish or Chinese; each designed to support the New Jersey World Languages Student Learning Standards. This is a continuation of the Grade 7 program, as instruction will again focus on communication and culture. Students will continue to learn the use of a second language in the real world, as well as learning about the cultures of people who speak French, Spanish or Chinese. This curriculum also serves as a preparation for a full block of World Language instruction at the high school level.

At the end of 8th grade students who demonstrate strong world language skills will be encouraged to take an exit exam that will allow them to be eligible to enroll in a level 2 World Language class upon entering 9th grade. Student who pursue this route will be encouraged to enroll in higher level World Language courses and participate in the District's biliteracy program.