



World Language Enrollment 2018-2019

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Are French/Spanish 6 (quarter class) and Focus on French/Spanish (semester class) required for enrollment in level 1?**

No. Neither course is a prerequisite for level 1 French/Spanish. The curriculum for level 1 provides for students who have no prior exposure to either language.

- **What is the benefit of enrolling in the quarter (6th grade) and semester (7th/8th grade) classes for French and/or Spanish at the middle school?**

While not a requirement for level 1, the quarter and semester classes allow students to practice with vocabulary, language functions, and culture taught in levels 1-3. Many students find the early learning to be helpful.

- **Why should my student start French 1 or Spanish 1 as an 8th grader?**

Students beginning level 1 in 8th grade will be able to enroll in AP French or AP Spanish as a senior and are then prepared to take the AP test. They are also eligible to enroll in an additional 3 hours of College Now credit that is available in connection with the 5th level of language study. Students who complete 5 years of language have a greater chance of achieving the Seal of Biliteracy awarded by the State of Kansas their senior year.

- **What if my student wants to study a different language in high school that isn't offered in the middle school?**

Taking any of the courses offered at the middle school level will help to prepare students for study of other languages at the high school. They will find it easier to make connections with vocabulary and language structure and will have time to develop positive study skills and habits when working with a foreign language.

- **Why should my student take American Sign Language (ASL)?**

Students that enroll in Beginning and Intermediate ASL will fulfill their Applied Communications credit required for high school graduation. They will also be able to communicate in the 3rd most commonly used International Language in America and amongst the large Deaf community in which they live.

- **Does American Sign Language (ASL) count as a Foreign Language?**

Yes. Beginning and Intermediate ASL courses, each 1 semester long, are recognized and accepted as foreign language credit at KS Regents schools. However, since they are semester courses, they do not fulfill a requirement of 2 years of a single foreign language necessary for admission to some colleges and universities.

- **What is College Now?**

It is a partnership between JCCC and high schools that allows 10-12th graders to earn college credit by taking certain upper-level courses at the high school. Students must apply to and pay current JCCC tuition, and upon successful completion of the course, college credit may be earned. These credits can be transferrable to all Kansas Regents colleges and many other public and private colleges and universities. You should check with the admissions office of prospective schools to determine if credit will transfer or not. Please see your high school counselor for more information.

- **Which World Language courses are part of the College Now program, and what is their credit equivalency?**

It varies by language. To receive maximum credit hours, French and Spanish students must begin level 1 in 8th grade, German and Japanese students must begin level 1 in 9th grade, and Latin students must begin level 1 in 9th or 10th grade. Credit hours are subject to any changes made by JCCC.

Course	College Credit Hours	
French IV (11 th /12 th grade)	5 hours fall semester	5 hours spring semester
AP French V (12 th grade)	3 hours	
Spanish IV (11 th /12 th grade)	5 hours fall semester	5 hours spring semester
AP Spanish V (12 th grade)	3 hours	
German III (11 th /12 th grade)	5 hours	
German IV (12 th grade)	5 hours	
Japanese III (11 th /12 th grade)	5 hours	
Japanese IV (12 th grade)	5 hours	
Latin III (11 th /12 th grade)	3 hours	

- **Do any International Languages classes earn weighted grades?**

AP French V, AP Spanish V, German IV and Japanese IV courses receive weighted grades. Please see your counselor for more information.

- **Are all World Language courses offered at all high schools?**

American Sign Language, French, German and Spanish are offered at all 5 high schools. Check with your school counselor regarding the availability of other world language courses offered in Olathe such as Latin, Japanese, and Spanish for Heritage Speakers.

- **I still have questions. Whom should I contact?**

For additional questions, contact student's current World Language teacher, middle or high school counselor, or Michael Flenthrope, World Languages Coordinator (mgflenthrope@olatheschools.org).