

Hunterdon Preparatory School World Languages Curriculum

The study of world languages provides students with the capability to communicate in a globally literate society. Here at the Hunterdon Preparatory School, more students each year are held to the NJDOE requirement of one year of a foreign language by their sending districts while some of our sending districts have a local requirement of two years. Students can choose from a wide variety of online foreign language courses through two providers: Power Speak and the Rosetta Stone. Students are assigned to the computer lab during one of their special interest periods where they have the benefit of having a special education teacher available as well as our technology teacher to address any hardware or software issues.

Students who are considering continuing their education at the undergraduate level must be prepared for the rigors of taking a foreign language at the collegiate level. Those students who wish to attend a four year college need a minimum of two years of a world language as an admissions requirement. To that end, students taking a language course online may accelerate their coursework by completing lessons at home or even in the car if they have access to a smart phone. Students who successfully complete their world language course may opt to take their instruction to the next level.

Certain modifications are necessary to support our students through their online foreign language curriculums. Students who require extra time or who are easily distracted may require an extension to their course subscription. Student ability is factored into the degree of proficiency expected. Woodcock Johnson results reflect below average and borderline working memory and processing ability in many of our students. This makes it difficult for our students to memorize words and phrases necessary for world language skills development. Our students who struggle with their command of English may only ever reach a novice level of proficiency. Choosing a language that reflects one's heritage helps our students focus on the language that interests them most and sometimes provides the added benefit of having a family member who is familiar and possibly fluent in that language. This makes it possible for students to overcome their challenges and complete a foreign language requirement successfully.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard language grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Students will use various types of phrases and clauses to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
- Students will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard language capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Students will spell foreign words correctly.
- Students will apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
- Students will use context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Students will identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech.
- Students will consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine its precise meaning.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- Students will be able to interpret figures of speech in context and analyze their role in the text.