

# World Languages

Language is our single most important connection to our community and to the world. Through language we identify the world around us, express our concerns, our dreams, and it allows us to share our experiences and ideas.

The ability to communicate in a language other than English provides a unique opportunity to gain access to other people and their cultures. It is through language that each culture leaves an indelible mark on society as a whole. Recent world events bear witness to the importance of communicating in another language and understanding cultures other than our own. Change is accelerating at a pace that far exceeds our own conceptions. Our interdependence with other cultures makes it even more crucial for us to acquire skills for communication and cross-cultural understanding.

The concept of a global community is no longer abstract but rather quite concrete. Our membership and involvement in this arena necessitates strong communication and cultural skills. Buffalo and Western New York are in a strategic position to act as major players in this new world setting. These worldwide connections are no longer sporadic, but rather an integral part of doing business on a daily basis. The recognition of being proficient in a language other than English is a definite necessity!

## COURSE OFFERINGS

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Type of Exam</u>
French I	1 unit	40 weeks	Local Proficiency Exam
French II	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
French III	1 unit	40 weeks	Regents Equivalent
French IV	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
French V/Hilbert	1 unit	40 weeks	Hilbert
Spanish I	1 unit	40 weeks	Local Proficiency Exam
Spanish II	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Spanish III	1 unit	40 weeks	Regents Equivalent
Spanish IV	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Spanish V/Hilbert	1 unit	40 weeks	Hilbert

### French I/Spanish I

Credit: 1 Unit      Length: 40 Weeks

This course is a beginning and foundational course that stresses the four language skills: Listening, speaking, reading and writing - with primary vocabulary and structure dealing with the student, his/her school, activities, family, etc. These topics are integrated into a course by using them in

conversation, as well as written structure. Videos, podcasts, movies, and various other aids are used to help the student experience Spanish/French-speaking cultures. Teacher and student target language use will increase throughout the year.

## French II/Spanish II

Credit: 1 Unit      Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Level I

This course is a continuation of the first year course which builds on previously learned material. However, the degree of difficulty of grammatical concepts increases. Training in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing is continued. Students are asked to master new grammatical structures and topics as well as new vocabulary. They are also asked to apply the newly acquired topics in conversations about practical topics and in their writing.

Their acquisition of new concepts and vocabulary, both active and passive, is strengthened. As much as possible of the class will be conducted in the target language on behalf of the teacher as well as the students. Student target language use will continue to be strengthened and assessed through conversations with a classmate, small groups, and/or the teacher. Students continue to be exposed to cultural elements. These may be introduced in discussions as well as in cultural readings, movies, videos, etc. These items will offer students greater insight into the culture of the countries where the language they are studying is spoken.

## French III/Spanish III

Credit: 1 Unit      Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Level II

Training in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing is continued in the level 3 course. Students are asked to master new grammatical structures and topics as well as new vocabulary which continue to build upon previously learned material.

They are also asked to apply the newly acquired vocabulary and grammar in authentic conversations about practical

topics and in their writing. Their acquisition of new concepts and vocabulary, both active and passive, is strengthened. Reading comprehension as well as writing proficiency and speaking proficiency will be emphasized. The class will be conducted in the target language as much as possible. Student target language use will continue to be strengthened and assessed through conversations with a classmate, small groups, and/or the teacher. Students continue to be exposed to cultural elements. These may be introduced in discussions as well as in cultural readings, movies, videos, etc. These items will offer students greater insight into the life and people of the countries where the language they are studying is spoken. In addition, this course has a Regents equivalent as a final evaluation. Because of this, time will be devoted throughout the year to review and prepare students for this examination, which emphasizes reading, writing, listening and speaking.

## French IV

Credit: 1 Unit      Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: French III

Training and application in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing continues at this level. Students are asked to review and apply grammatical structures and topics they have learned in the past. Some specific details are added to that prior knowledge. Students greatly expand their knowledge of vocabulary. In Level IV, French is used extensively in the class. Much of the year is focused on helping students to further develop their ability to speak in French and comprehend both the teacher and their classmates during discussions. They are asked to apply acquired vocabulary in conversations about practical topics and in their writing. Their prior knowledge of

concepts and vocabulary, both active and passive, is strengthened. They may be asked to write short essays, stories, skits, commercials, etc. in order to apply their knowledge and be creative with it. Reading comprehension will be emphasized through the use of authentic materials. Newspaper and magazine articles will expose students to vocabulary in their interest areas. They will also gain a wealth of knowledge about the cultures of French-speaking countries from readings, class discussions, viewing films, and listening to French music.

### Spanish IV

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Spanish III

Training and application of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing continue at this level. Students are asked to review and apply grammatical structures and topics they have learned in the past. Some specific details are added to that prior knowledge. Students do expand their knowledge of vocabulary through readings, discussions and projects. In Level IV, Spanish is used extensively in the class. Much of the year is focused on helping students to further develop their ability to speak in Spanish and comprehend both the teacher and their classmates during extended discussions. They are asked to apply acquired vocabulary in conversations about practical topics, topics of interest, and in their writing. Their prior knowledge of concepts and vocabulary, both active and passive, is strengthened. They may be asked to write and present short essays, short stories, skits, commercials, political slogans, research projects, etc. in small and large groups in order to apply their knowledge and be creative with it. Listening comprehension will be emphasized through the use of podcasts of native speakers. They

will also gain a wealth of knowledge about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries from readings, class discussions, viewing films, and listening to Spanish music.

### French V

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: French IV or teacher recommendation

Level 5 French is an advanced French course for high school students who have completed 4 high school units of study. As such, the course will emphasize advanced oral communication and listening skills. Students will add to their already extensive vocabulary bank with concentration on those words necessary to enhance the students' communicative abilities. This new vocabulary will enhance the everyday skills necessary for effective communication.

Reading at an advanced level will introduce some literature and stress comprehension. Writing skills will be enhanced to include personal narrative through journals, persuasive and expository style. Grammar will be an integral part of the course. Previously learned structures will be reviewed and reinforced, while advanced grammatical structures will be introduced for mastery. With today's emphasis on global interdependence, cultural awareness will be explored through the use of visual media, research projects and presentations and other means that will further the students' knowledge of the French speaking countries and their people. Students are also able to earn Hilbert College credit through this course and taking the final exam. More information regarding the Hilbert College credit is available upon request.

Final Exam: Teacher-created Hilbert Exam (All students take the exam regardless of whether or not they pay for the credits.)



## Spanish V

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or teacher recommendation

Level 5 Spanish is an advanced Spanish course for high school students who have completed 4 high school units of study. As such, the course will emphasize advanced oral communication and listening skills. Students will add to their already extensive vocabulary bank with concentration on those words necessary to enhance the students' communicative abilities. This new vocabulary will improve the everyday skills necessary for effective communication.

Reading at an advanced level will introduce some literature and stress comprehension. Writing skills will be practiced and will include personal narrative through journals, persuasive and expository style. Grammar will be an integral part of the course. Previously learned structures will be reviewed and reinforced, while advanced grammatical structures will be introduced for mastery. With today's emphasis on global interdependence, cultural awareness will be explored through the use of visual media, research projects and presentations and other means that will further the students' knowledge of the Spanish speaking countries and their people. Students are also able to earn Hilbert College credit through this course and taking the final exam. More

information regarding the Hilbert College credit is available upon request.

Final Exam: Teacher-created Hilbert Exam (All students take the exam regardless of whether or not they pay for the credits.)

### **French and Spanish Honor Society**

French & Spanish Honor Society is made up of honor students who maintain a French or Spanish average above 90. Students participate in special events such as trips, cultural activities, and dinner at ethnic restaurants. The students serve the school by helping language teachers and tutoring peers. Fundraising is done to support activities and to create funds for annual scholarships.

#### **French Honor Society** [West Senior](#)

Students are invited to apply during their sophomore year while in French 3. Students eligible for membership must have completed two years of high school French and must maintain a 90% average in French and an 80% overall in other subjects. To maintain membership students must be enrolled in French 4 and 5 and serve as either a peer tutor, teacher aide, or an officer to the organization.

#### **French Honor Society** [East Senior](#)

Students are invited to apply after their third year of study in the fall of their junior year. For induction students must have a 90 average or higher in French and an 85 average in the rest of their studies. To maintain membership students must continue to have a 90 average in French taken each year and complete a total of 8 hours of service and attend 2 cultural events before May of their senior year.

#### **Spanish Honor Society** [West Senior](#)

Students are eligible to apply in their sophomore year when enrolled in Spanish 3 and have maintained a 90 average or higher in Spanish and an 80 average or higher in all other subjects. To maintain their membership students must be enrolled in Spanish 4 and 5 and serve as a peer tutor, teacher aide, or an officer.

#### **Spanish Honor Society** [East Senior](#)

Students are invited to apply after their third year of study in the fall of their junior year. For induction students must have a 90 average or higher in Spanish and an 80 average in the rest of their studies. To maintain membership students must continue to have a 90 average in Spanish taken each year until graduation and participate in service activities. Students are asked to assist with the induction ceremony and annual language event, and attend at least one Spanish Club event.

## **NYS Seal of Biliteracy**

Some language students may be recommended by their teachers to pursue the NYS Seal of Biliteracy. This is an award given by a school, school district or county office of education that formally recognizes students who have attained a high level of proficiency in two or more world languages (one of which must be English) by high school graduation. This includes students whose first language is not English and may be part of the district ENL program.

The Seal of Biliteracy is affixed to the students diploma and is noted on the students official high school transcript and graduation program.

This program serves to:

- recognize the value of language diversity
- provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high level skills in multiple languages
- provide employers with a method of identifying people with language skills
- prepare students with 21st century skills

