

# WORLD LANGUAGES

The district offers six languages: French, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and American Sign Language\*. Availability of a beginning class is subject to sufficient enrollment; all six languages may not be taught at both high schools. Once a Level I language course is begun, the district does guarantee a sequence of three levels of that language. Combined classes may occur in the advanced levels depending on enrollment.

*\*With sufficient student enrollment, ASL will be offered at Palo Alto High School.*

Placement in the next level of the language is determined by the student's current instructor. A grade of C or higher is necessary to advance to the next level and a grade of B or higher is recommended to advance to an AP level unless the teacher gives prior approval.

Features of World Languages classes:

- Instruction is primarily in the target language (the language the students are studying).
- The classroom environment is conducive to language use in the real world.
- The teachers and learners work together to better understand the structure of the target language in order to be able to compare and contrast it with their own languages.
- Oral and aural language acquisition is emphasized at the first levels and reading comprehension and writing skills are developed as the students progress.
- The target language is taught within the context of the cultural heritage of that language.
- Diverse learning styles are taken into consideration in lesson planning.
- Adaptations are made for learners with special learning needs.
- *The aim of the classes is to enable students to develop communicative competence in the target language so that they may interact appropriately with speakers of the language.*

## ESLRS

Based on the World Languages' state framework and content standards, all the ESLRs are addressed in the curriculum, with particular emphasis on: demonstrating knowledge; effective communication through listening, speaking, and writing; reading with understanding; and effective use of technology.

## BEGINNING / INTERMEDIATE WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES – GRADES 9-12

4110	French 1	4210	German 1	4270	Japanese 1	4010	Mandarin Chinese 1*	4410	Spanish 1
4120	French 2	4220	German 2	4275	Japanese 2	4020	Mandarin Chinese 2	4420	Spanish 2
4130	French 3	4230	German 3	4277	Japanese 3	4030	Mandarin Chinese 3	4430	Spanish 3

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Level I and II World Language classes are designed for non-native speakers of the target language. Students who are native or semi-native speakers are encouraged to enroll in another language as freshmen or sophomores and then do AP Language in their own language as juniors or seniors.*

## SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

### 4401 SPAN/SPAN I

### 4402 SPAN/SPAN 2

These courses are designed for students whose native language is Spanish or who have completed the Spanish Immersion program. In addition to emphasis on the study of the Spanish language, they give students knowledge and appreciation of Spanish American culture. Students will learn to distinguish and value the difference between colloquial and academic language. Emphasis is placed on developing academic literacy in Spanish in order to support student success in English language core classes.

**NOTE:** *Completion of Spanish for Spanish Speakers levels 1 and 2 will fulfill the University of California and CSU "e" entrance requirements for foreign language.*

## ADVANCED WORLD LANGUAGES

Advanced World Language courses are available to students who have completed level 3 of that language with a grade of B or better. No application is necessary. Honors and AP courses are weighted and will be given added credit by UC and CSU.

4149 French AP Language 4151 French Civilization and Culture H	4240 German 4 4241 German 4H 4249 German AP Language	4278 Japanese 4 4289 Japanese 4H 4299 Japanese AP Language & Culture
4040 Mandarin Chinese 4	4440 Spanish Civilization and Culture 4441 Spanish Civilization and Culture H 4449 Spanish AP Language 4459 Spanish AP Literature	

Advanced World Languages courses are available to students who have completed level 3 of that language with a grade of B or better or by approval of the instructor. No application is necessary. Honors and AP courses are weighted and will be given added credit by UC and CSU.

- Understand most conversations on non-technical subjects. Handle with some facility most social situations, including introductions and casual conversations about one's work, family and hobbies.
- Speak and read about personal experiences and about the readings, films or current events that are presented in class.
- Read with understanding some modern works such as short stories, plays, novels, or poetry.

**Advanced Placement Language** courses in French, German, Japanese, and Spanish emphasize the development of a high level of proficiency in understanding the spoken language in informal and formal situations, and in the use of vocabulary and grammar. In the Language courses students will:

- Listen with understanding to reports and lectures of a non-literary content.
- Read with comprehension newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary fiction and non-technical writing.
- Express ideas orally and in writing with fluency and accuracy.

**Spanish AP Literature** students will:

- Listen with understanding to lectures of literary or cultural content.
- Read with comprehension and at sight poetry, prose, and drama of moderate difficulty.
- Analyze literature of the different literary periods orally and in writing.

**Spanish Civilization and Culture** emphasizes the history, geography and current events of Spain and Spanish America. Spanish language usage is reviewed in the context of studying the art, music, architecture, literature, film, fashion, and gastronomy of the Spanish-speaking world.

## NEW COURSES FOR 2009-2010

**French Civilization and Culture H** is a course designed to provide students with the opportunity to continue with their advanced studies of French through a thematic approach to French civilization and culture. Students will study the history, politics, and social issues of the French-speaking world through the use of literature, film, music, art, and mass media. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the wide range of cultures in the world where French is spoken (Europe, Africa, Caribbean islands, Southeast Asia, etc). Language skills will be developed through oral presentations, research and reflections on literature. **This course replaces the French AP Literature course that was eliminated by the College Board in 2009.**

**Mandarin Chinese 4** is a continuation of the work previously done in Mandarin Chinese 3. Students will learn the structure and vocabulary necessary to communicate in depth in Chinese using more extended language to talk about the following: holiday activities, friends and family relationships, student elections and leadership, school events and extracurricular activities, use of technology, hospitality and social etiquette, comparison of eating habits, conversation and recycling, environmental protection, part-time jobs, health, and social issues of youth in China. Students will acquire a reading and writing knowledge of 140 simplified characters and a reading knowledge of the traditional characters among the characters introduced.

**Both courses are pending approval of UC “e” subject requirement for 2009-2010.**