

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY OF THE Foreign language study today focuses on communication. Proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing are stressed throughout the course

DEPARTMENT language study. The target language, used in realistic situations, is supported by authentic materials showing the relevance of studying the foreign language. Foreign language lessons are developed based on the five C's of the National Foreign Language Standards: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

The ability to speak and understand another language has many advantages. Research has shown that foreign language study develops a greater understanding and skill in English vocabulary and grammar. An awareness of foreign cultures and value systems enhances the understanding of one's own society as well as motivates tolerance and open-mindedness towards others. Finally, foreign language study can provide challenging and exciting career opportunities. The business world actively seeks bilingual people as secretaries, translators, buyers, and there are often positions available in government as travel agents, nurses, and engineers.

A minimum of three or four years of study is necessary to develop minimal proficiency in any foreign language. The Presidents Council of the State Universities of Michigan strongly recommends at least three years of study of a foreign language to be eligible for admission to a four-year degree program. Furthermore, with three/four years of foreign language study in high school, students can place out of required college classes in language study. Today, more than ever before, many colleges require foreign language study to graduate from their institution and are offering to waive or alter that requirement for students who have studied a foreign language in high school.

Suggested programs for those considering a concentration in a foreign language include the following:

7th Grade	Exploratory Language
	or
8th Grade	Exploratory Language
8th Grade	1st Year Language Study
9th Grade	2nd Year Language Study
10th Grade	3rd Year Language Study
11th Grade	4th Year Language Study
12th Grade	5 th Year Language Study

Talented and interested foreign language students should give serious consideration to studying more than one language during their high school career. Currently our high schools offer programs in French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. Regular visits to the language laboratory are an integral component of the high school foreign language experience. Courses in this department may count toward the graduation requirement of two years or more in the combined areas of Foreign Languages, Fine Arts, and Career and Technical Education.

F010

FRENCH I

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

PREREQUISITE: None

French I is a study of the French language with equal emphasis on listening, reading, speaking, writing and culture. Learning will concentrate on bringing new vocabulary and grammar into meaningful communicative situations. Students will be introduced to the French-speaking people and their customs and traditions by means of video, audio, and computer technology. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum. Frequent listening activities will enhance students' ability to communicate in French. Cultural studies will include French cuisine, schools, family life, calendar, music, famous people, art, and geography.

F020

FRENCH II

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

PREREQUISITE: French I and teacher recommendation

This class is a continuation of French skills with an emphasis on speaking and understanding French through vocabulary building and use of technology. Students will continue to develop proficiency in the areas of listening, reading, speaking, writing, and culture. Culture studies include Paris, French cuisine, music, transportation, geography and more. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F030

FRENCH III

2 semesters 1 credit 10-12

PREREQUISITE: French II and teacher recommendation

French III continues a balanced skills approach to an in-depth study of the French language. The course will be conducted as much as possible in French and students will be encouraged to use French whenever they are in the classroom. Emphasis is placed on spontaneous use of the language. The study of the French speaking world and related culture will continue. Selected readings from other sources will be used to supplement the readings in the text. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F040

FRENCH IV

2 semesters 1 credit 11-12

PREREQUISITE: French III and teacher recommendation

French IV also continues the balanced skills approach but at a more complex level. The class is taught in French and students are expected to use French in the classroom. Emphasis is placed on oral communication skills, accuracy of written expression, and comprehension and enjoyment of literary works. A more complete understanding of the French perspective is explored. French cultural studies continue and students will study aspects of French history, literature, and art. Readings will include novels, short stories, and poetry. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F110

GERMAN I

2 semesters

1 credit

9-12

PREREQUISITE: None

This course is offered to all students and introduces the four language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing the German language. Students will learn to talk and write about themselves, their families, and their daily lives. Germany, its people and their lifestyles are studied using a variety of authentic media such as CD-ROM, video, newspaper, etc. Students will practice speaking German in classroom activities. They will also be exposed to German songs, festivals, and foods. Cultural topics include the life of German teenagers, clothing, school and sports, current issues, and leisure time activities. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F120

GERMAN II

2 semesters

1 credit

9-12

PREREQUISITE: German I and teacher recommendation

German II is a continuation of conversational German with emphasis on speaking, reading, writing and comprehending German. The goal is for students to be able to express their own opinions in spoken and written German. Guided conversations and a variety of communicative activities continue to improve students' pronunciation and comprehension. Topics include shopping, getting around Germany, free time activities, vacations and healthy lifestyles. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F130

GERMAN III

2 semesters

1 credit

10-12

PREREQUISITE: German II and teacher recommendation

German III continues the advancement of students in composition, reading, and speaking. In addition to the textbook, a variety of supplementary lessons form the basis for classroom discussions and for presentations by the students. Cultural topics include folk tales, songs, influential Germans and German history as well as a more in-depth study of the cultural areas described in German I and II. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F140

GERMAN IV

2 semesters

1 credit

11-12

PREREQUISITE: German III and teacher recommendation

German IV is designed to improve and refine the students' competency in written and spoken German. There is also an emphasis on more advanced communication skills. Selected short stories, articles and works by German authors in authentic texts are used to further the students' comprehension. The class will generally be conducted in German and students will continue to enjoy the culture of Germany through a variety of videos, festivals and special sources. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F210

SPANISH I

2 semesters

1 credit

9-12

PREREQUISITE: None

Spanish I is a beginning course providing elementary practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing the Spanish language. There is a strong emphasis on oral communication and listening comprehension through the use of varied classroom exercises as well as the use of authentic audio and video tapes. This course is interwoven with much interesting information concerning school life, social life, geography, customs, songs, and foods of the many Spanish-speaking countries. The importance of Spanish to a person living in the U.S., as well as career opportunities are also discussed. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F220

SPANISH II

2 semesters

1 credit

9-12

PREREQUISITE: Spanish I and teacher recommendation

Students have an opportunity to develop their language skills through the continued balanced presentation of the four skills. More advanced reading passages, dialogues, and directed writings are utilized. Oral communication and listening comprehension continue to be a vital part of daily activities. Reading selections, class discussions, and videos portray a cross-section of Spanish culture including leisure time activities, family celebrations, clothing, school and daily life, health, shopping, travel, food, professions, and urban versus rural life. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F230

SPANISH III

2 semesters

1 credit

10-12

PREREQUISITE: Spanish II and teacher recommendation

In Spanish III there is greater use of Spanish in the classroom with concentration on developing students' confidence with the language. More advanced grammar and vocabulary items are used as a foundation to further oral and written communication in Spanish. Selected supplementary readings offer cultural insights, as well as an introduction to Hispanic literature, geography, art, and music. Spanish III is a must for seniors who want to go on to college. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F240

SPANISH IV (SPANISH IV AP)

2 semesters

1 credit

11-12

PREREQUISITE: Spanish III and teacher recommendation

This advanced level provides the opportunity for students to increase their language proficiency while reviewing and broadening their grammatical foundation through a variety of conversation-stimulating activities. In addition, students delve into cultural readings pertaining to Hispanic art, music, family celebrations and traditions. Literary works by well-known Hispanic authors are also explored. The class is generally conducted in Spanish and is a must for students who want to do well on college placement examinations. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F310

JAPANESE I

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

Eisenhower students:

1 period course

Ford II, Stevenson and Utica students:

2 period block course including lunch

PREREQUISITE: None

Japanese I emphasizes the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn two Japanese alphabets (hiragana and katakana), basic sentence structures, and everyday expressions. Modern and classical and Japanese culture, such as sumo wrestling, calligraphy, education, the political system, customs and other aspects of daily customs are explored. At the high school level, regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F320

JAPANESE II

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

Eisenhower students:

1 period course

Ford II, Stevenson, and Utica students:

2 period block course including lunch

PREREQUISITE: Japanese I and teacher recommendation

Japanese II focuses on more advanced communication skills and sentence structures. Students begin the study of kanji, learning approximately one hundred characters. Students explore Japanese people and their customs in more depth. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.

F330

JAPANESE III

2 semesters 1 credit 10-12

Eisenhower students:

1 period course

Ford II, Stevenson, and Utica students:

2 period block course including lunch

PREREQUISITE: Japanese II and teacher recommendation

Japanese III focuses on advanced Japanese language skills. Students learn approximately one hundred kanji characters and advanced sentence structures. Students who have successfully completed this course should be able to engage in conversation on a wide variety of subjects. Increased language proficiency at this level also enhances students' ability to understand Japanese culture more deeply. Regular use of the language lab will be an integral part of the curriculum.