



Tredyffrin/Easttown School District

Administration Offices, West Valley Business Center
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Office of State and Federal Programs
Dr. Oscar Torres, Jr.

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

This year, 4th grade students will engage in a world language experience prior to the deadline for course selection cards. The purpose is to assist students and families in choosing a language for future study. To help you and your child make this decision, we will be providing the students exposure in the classroom to both French and Spanish. These activities will include a variety of language stations that the students will rotate through. The students will work with middle school language teachers, 4th grade classroom teachers, as well as middle and high school students during two afternoons.

Since many students in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District continue their study of a world language through their senior year, the choice of a language is an important one. We would like to offer some factors for your consideration in helping your child make this decision.

- 1) The child's interest and comfort in one of the languages presented in the program
- 2) Family background (ethnic heritage, family experience in the language)
- 3) Learning style/needs of the child
- 4) Career interest

To help you and your child make this decision, this program targets the benefits of studying the languages we offer in the middle school. Please be aware that your child can pursue these languages and additional languages - German, Italian, and Latin at Conestoga. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oscar Torres Jr." in a cursive script.

Oscar Torres, Jr., Ed.D
Director of State and Federal Programs
Curriculum Supervisor, World Languages

Why study French?

- The study of French is of great professional and cultural value to students. In the Greater Delaware Valley alone, there are more than 50 French-owned or related companies!
- French is the language not only of France, but also of sections of Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, well as over 20 African countries.
- Along with English, French is also the official working language of the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, the International Labor Bureau, the international Olympic Committee, the 31-member Council of Europe, and the International Red Cross.
- Exploring the traditions of French-speaking countries gives students fresh insights into their own way of life. They might try their hand at French cuisine... visit museums to admire the work of French impressionists...and feel very much like citizens of the global community.

Why study Spanish?

- Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world and it is spoken by more than 50 million people in the United States.
- In the professional world, proficiency in Spanish will be essential, not only for business in the US, but also for business in the international community.
- There are 23 Spanish-speaking countries in the world. By knowing Spanish, you will enhance your travel experience by being able to communicate in the language and better understand the culture of the place to where you are traveling.
- Spanish is considered one of the easiest languages for a native English speaker to learn.

World Language Sequence



5th Grade

- Student Selected Language - French or Spanish
- (Twice per cycle - all year)

6th Grade

- Student Selected Language - French or Spanish
- (Twice per cycle - all year)

7th Grade

- Student Selected Language - French or Spanish
- Level 1 (Core subject/1 period daily all year)

8th Grade

- Continuation of Student Selected Language - French or Spanish
- Level 2 (Core subject/1 period daily all year)

9th Grade

- Level 1 - French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish
- Level 3 French A/X/H
- Level 3 Spanish A/X/H

10th Grade

- Level 1 or 2 - French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish
- Level 4 French X/H/AP
- Level 4 Spanish X/H/AP

11th Grade

- Levels 1-3 - French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish
- Level 5 French X/H/AP
- Level 5 Spanish X/H/AP

12th Grade

- Levels 1-4 - French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish
- Level 6 French X/H
- Level 6 Spanish X/H

At Conestoga High School, students may study more than one language in a school year if their schedule allows. For further assistance, please see your World Language teacher or counselor.



BENEFITS OF LANGUAGE LEARNING

WHAT?

We believe that all students should learn or maintain at least one world language in addition to English. Therefore, language learning should be a central part of any curriculum.

WHY?

In the 21st Century knowing a second language is not only beneficial, but necessary for success in life. The continual globalization of the world's economy is bringing diverse cultures and communities into more frequent contact with each other. The ease of global travel and the internet have collapsed the barrier of distance that once kept the world's communities separate. From the corporate marketplace to the individual consumer, from the pre-schools to universities, from the beach vacationer to the global jet set, the world community has become integrated and interdependent. Institutions of higher learning are scrutinizing applicants to identify future world leaders. Employers and businesses are seeking applicants who can navigate the modern global economy. It is through learning another language that students can develop both these skill sets. Learning another language also provides many other benefits including greater academic achievement, greater cognitive development, and more positive attitudes towards other languages and cultures. Simply put, language learning is necessary for students to effectively function in the modern global marketplace.

In addition to meeting the needs of future students, language learning has been shown to greatly enhance student performance across the curriculum. Language learning has been shown to improve a student's cognitive function, including, but not limited to:

- Enhanced Problem Solving Skills
- Improved Verbal and Spatial Abilities
- Improved Memory Function (long & short-term)
- Enhanced Creative Thinking Capacity
- Better Memory
- More Flexible and Creative Thinking
- Improved Attitude Toward the Target Language and Culture

These cognitive benefits of language learning have been shown to enhance student performance producing:

- Higher standardized test scores