

WORLD LANGUAGES

The world language curriculum at the Middle School introduces a formal program of language learning. In each of the two-year sequences in **French**, **Latin**, and **Spanish**, students complete an intense High School level I course. Each language is learned within a cultural context; students therefore gain understanding and respect for different societies, past and present.

Skills:

- seeing the patterns of language
- recognizing and understanding grammatical structure
- manipulating elements of the language to form sentences
- memorizing effectively
- understanding the essential meaning without translating every word
- recognizing meaning through cognates
- understanding the cumulative nature of language learning

In French and Spanish, students reach a high degree of oral proficiency, receive an in depth exposure to grammar and have an opportunity to read short stories. In these two languages, we place equal stress on understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Throughout the course, culture and civilization are stressed.

In Latin, students concentrate not only on the vocabulary and syntax of formal Latin, but also on language structure in general and its relation to English grammar. English vocabulary building and Latin expressions used in English are an integral part of the course. We teach vocabulary, translation through reading, and how to work in the language without knowing every word. Roman history and culture will be taught through readings, activities, and projects. In the spring, students participate in the National Latin Exam at the Introduction to Latin level (7th grade) and Beginner level (8th grade).

Texts and Other Materials:

French

Grade 7	<i>D'Accord</i> (Vista Higher Learning)
Grade 8	<i>Bien Dit</i> by DeMado

Latin

Grade 7 & 8	No text is required. The students receive an in-house publication.
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Spanish

Grade 7 & 8:	<i>Descubre</i> (Vista Higher Learning). Students get access to the online book and resources. The students receive an in-house publication.
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Language 83

Because of the cumulative nature of language acquisition it is vital that each student have a solid foundation on which to build. Therefore, any 8th grade student, who for whatever reason does not have a solid command of our 7th grade curriculum in French, Latin or Spanish, will be placed in Language 83. (Placement in this course is only by recommendation from the school.) In this course not only is a specific language taught, but also the skills necessary for successful language acquisition are emphasized. The language used for this course rotates; for example, 2018-2019 Latin, 2019-2020 Arabic, and 2020-2021 Latin.

Please note: This course does not complete the requirements of a first year language class. This is a one-year course with no continuing level at the Upper School. Typically, the students who are enrolled in this course begin 9th grade in the Upper School with Level I of one of the languages offered at the Upper School – Arabic, Chinese, French, Latin, Russian, or Spanish.