

Newton North High School World Language Department



Information for Parents of Incoming Freshmen 2022-2023

The World Language Department offers full sequential programs from Novice to Advanced levels in:

- French
- Italian
- Latin
- Mandarin Chinese
- Spanish

Mission

We believe that learning another language is the best way to establish connections with & develop an understanding of other people and cultures. The two pillars of our program are *communicative proficiency & intercultural competency*.

- The development of communicative proficiency in another language offers

students a broader understanding of the world and the ability to participate more fully in it.

- The development of intercultural competency fosters knowledge of and respect for differences. When students are provided with opportunities to reflect on their own culture and make comparisons to other cultures, they are better equipped to understand diverse perspectives and interact appropriately and respectfully in a variety of contexts.
- Students will be challenged to develop their proficiency in an **interactive, immersive** environment, even at beginner levels.
- Students will advance their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing within the context of real-life situations and authentic texts. As they study, students will learn that every language has its own voice, expressing thoughts and ideas in its own unique way.
- Opportunities to connect with local and international language communities, including the option to **travel abroad on an exchange** beginning sophomore year, will further advance proficiency and intercultural competency.

Immersion

Research indicates that an environment that immerses students in the target language and focuses on meaningful communication is essential to second language acquisition. In this environment, language learning takes place more naturally, much like the way students learn their first language. For this reason, teachers of modern languages, even at beginner levels, use the target language as exclusively as possible (90%+) and likewise rely on extensive use of authentic language resources. In Latin, students receive input primarily in the written form, through literary passages and texts.

Course offerings for Freshmen**

Course Title	Adv College Prep	College Prep
Novice French 1	211	221*
Novice French 2	202	222*
Intermed. French 2	212	----
Novice Italian 1	271	276*
Novice Italian 2	262	277*
Intermed. Italian 2	272	----
Novice Spanish 1	241	251
Novice Spanish 2	232	252*
Intermed. Spanish 2	242	----
Latin 1	281	2812*
Novice Chinese 1	291	----
Chinese 2	292	----
<p><i>*Many Novice classes are combined ACP/CP courses which provide students appropriate challenge and supports within the course according to the level.</i></p> <p><i>**These courses are common pathways for students who range from no prior language study to middle school study. If your child's proficiency is beyond Intermediate 2, we will do individual placement.</i></p>		

proficiency continuum is comprised of 5 levels, ranging from Novice to Distinguished. The first three levels, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced, are also divided into Low, Intermediate and High sublevels.

In the classroom, proficiency advances according to instructional hours. The proficiency target for students who enter NNHS at the novice high level of proficiency (target at the end of 8th grade) and who study language through their senior year (5th year) is Intermediate High to Advanced Low. Intermediate High is the minimum proficiency necessary for students to earn a *Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy* during their senior year.

Curriculum Levels

College Prep courses (CP) in their structure and scaffolding are designed to support and meet the unique needs of students relative to building proficiency in a second language.

Advanced College Prep (ACP) courses assume more independent learning. *Intermediate 2 ACP* courses are designed for students who have achieved a proficiency level of Novice High in the four linguistic skills areas through 3 years of middle school study. If students have not yet reached that proficiency level, a *Novice 2 ACP* course is more appropriate.

Honors courses begin in 3rd year in the modern languages as well as in Latin.

First Year Courses

First year courses are primarily reserved for students who

- have not had previous language training
- have a large gap in their study of world language at the middle school level

Proficiency

“Proficiency” refers to what an individual can do with language with respect to reading, writing, speaking and listening in real-world situations. The

- and would benefit by starting over
- want to begin the study of a different language (some students also study two languages simultaneously at NNHS)

Family Support

You can support your child’s language learning even if you don’t know the language!

- Ask your child what he/she does to prepare for an assessment. Looking it over is *not* enough. Encourage him/her to study notes, handouts and previous assessments or study sheets made specifically for the assessment.
- Encourage your child to ask for help when necessary.
- Check that your child is doing his/her homework daily, including review and study time.
- Listen to your child speak. It is good practice and you’ll learn new things too.
- Encourage your child to listen to music, radio, television, the news, and ads in the language. Also, encourage cellphone or other technological devices to be set in the language.
- Provide a distraction-free environment in which your child can study.

Resources

There are a number of resources available to students as they study World Language at NNHS. These include:

- Extra help with their teacher during Tiger Block or WIN
- Peer tutoring
- Textbook websites (ask the child’s teacher)
- Other websites and electronic resources specific to the language or course

Keys to Success for Students

Teachers will support students to become more

independent learners by guiding them to develop the academic skills and strategies necessary for success. Here are some keys to success that you can discuss and reinforce with your child:

- *Leave English behind at the door of the language classroom.* Expect to hear the target language consistently spoken by the teacher. Students who are new to language study are not expected to understand 100%, and will gradually increase their comprehension.
- *Be prepared for class.* Arrive with completed assignments and materials, including the textbook, a notebook, a pen and whatever else the teacher requires.
- *Always do assigned homework.* It's very important to regularly review material and avoid cramming. It's also essential for students to keep track of assignments so that they know what is due when.
- *Be active in learning.* It's important for students to take initiative and be active in their own learning, including
 - *Communicating with their teachers*
 - *Accessing extra help when needed*
 - *Accessing missed work when absent*
- *Beware of online/electronic translation applications.* They translate words, *not* ideas. Teachers will help students to learn how to use these resources appropriately.
- *Listen to and speak the language whenever you have an opportunity!* What happens outside the classroom is *as important as* what happens inside the classroom.