

**Parents can help,  
even if they don't know another language!**

- Help your child set up a well-organized binder for class with all assessments, homework & notes.
- Ask your child what he/she does to prepare for a test. Looking it over is *not* enough. Encourage him/her to study notes, handouts and previous assessments or study sheets made specifically for the test.
- Encourage your child to ask for help when necessary. (See *Resources* below.)
- Check that your son or daughter 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 cell phone 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 after school with teacher during X blocks (Monday & Thursday)
- Extra help with a teacher in the WL help center (in library) during the school day
- Peer tutoring in the peer tutor center
- Textbook website (ask child's teacher)
- Other websites and electronic resources specific to your language or course

**Keys to success for students**

- *Expect to hear the target language consistently spoken by your teacher!* You're not expected to understand 100% - you'll get used to it, and gradually increase your understanding. Once you enter the language classroom, leave your English behind!
- *Be prepared for class!* Come to class with materials, including your textbook (every day!), a notebook, a writing utensil, and whatever else your teacher requires.
- *Always do assigned homework!* It's very important to regularly REVIEW material and avoid cramming. Don't forget to write the homework in your assignment notebook before leaving class!
- *Take initiative and be an independent and responsible learner!* If you're absent, you're responsible for missed classwork and homework. Phone a friend and/or check your teacher's website. Get your classmate's notes upon returning to class and talk to your teacher. Check in during X-block. Get help before you get overwhelmed.
- *Beware of online/electronic translation devices or services!* They translate words, *not* ideas.
- *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. Listening is learning, and practice improves skills.

**Newton North High School  
World Language Department**



**Information  
for  
incoming freshmen  
and parents**

2019-2020

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

- Chinese
- French
- Italian
- Latin
- Spanish

### Mission

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

- 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 cultural literacy fosters knowledge of and respect for differences, while also offering students an opportunity to reflect on their own culture.

Students will be challenged to develop proficiency in an interactive environment.

- This environment will be wide-ranging in its linguistic and cultural spectrum, incorporating a number of literary texts, cultural practices and perspectives, and themes that inform every day life in the modern world.
- Through various resources and methods, 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.
- Proficiency will be further advanced by offering students contact with local and international language communities, including opportunities to travel abroad on an exchange beginning sophomore year.

### Our Immersion Environment

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.

<b>Course offerings for Freshmen</b>		
	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*
Latin 2	282	
Novice Chinese 1	291	
Intermed. Chinese 2	292	
<i>*Due to enrollment, Novice French 211/221, Novice French 202/222, Novice Italian 271/276, Novice Italian 262/277 and Latin 281/2812 are generally taught as single mixed-level class. The same is true for Latin 281/2812.</i>		

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### Proficiency levels

“Proficiency” refers to what an individual can do with language with respect to reading, writing, speaking and listening in real-world situations. The 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 Newton North at the novice high level of proficiency (target at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and who study language through their senior year (5<sup>th</sup> year) is Intermediate High.

### Curriculum Levels

*College Prep courses*, in their pacing and structure are designed for students who have more difficulty learning or processing language or applying content.

*Advanced College Prep courses* move at a faster pace and assume more independent learning. *Intermediate 2 ACP courses* are designed for students who have achieved a proficiency level of Novice High in the 4 linguistic skills areas through 3 years of middle school study. If students have not yet reached that proficiency level, a *Novice 2 ACP* course may be most appropriate.

*Honors courses* begin in 3rd year in the modern languages (sophomore year for many students) and 4<sup>th</sup> year in Latin.

### First Year Courses

First year courses are primarily reserved for students who

- have not had any language training in middle school
- have a large gap in their study of world language at the middle school level
- want to begin the study of a different language