

HKHS WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT MANUAL 2019-2020

World Languages Department Faculty

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World Languages Department Mission and Philosophy

The mission of Haddam-Killingworth High School's World Languages Department is to engage students in other cultures, ancient or modern, through the careful study of languages so that students will communicate effectively in and contribute to a global society.

The Department's philosophy is based on state and national (ACTFL) standards. We strive to teach students to communicate with each other and to a wider audience through spoken and written communication. The study of world languages provides an opportunity for connections and comparisons between cultures and the languages themselves. Students are engaged in learning language and culture with the help of authentic materials and interdisciplinary studies. By integrating media and technology, lifelong learning, and career skills with global awareness, we apply 21st century skills to student learning.

We encourage students to study to the highest level of the language, and we remind students that they may study more than one language while in the High School.

World Languages Department Courses

The HKHS World Languages Department currently offers students courses in French, Latin and Spanish. Course descriptions are provided in the *HKHS Opportunities Book*, which can now be found on-line.

College Preparation/Standard Level: French 2, 3 and Spanish 1, 2, 3

Honors Level: French and Spanish 2, 3, 4, 5 and Latin 1

Possible College Credits (when offered and earned):

French and Spanish - University of Connecticut Early College Experience (UConn ECE) program

French and Spanish - Advanced Placement (AP) courses

Honors Level: For students who are exceptionally competent in the language and literature of English and the target language. For students who are capable of some serious and critical reading, whose composition and language skills are well beyond the basic level of achievement, and who are recommended for such placement by their World Languages teacher from the previous year.

College Preparation/Standard Level: For students who do generally competent work in English and the target language, but have some difficulty with one or more of the basic language skills: reading, writing, listening, or speaking.

Enduring Understandings of World Languages Study

The French, Latin, and Spanish curricula are written with the following enduring understandings:

- Communication involves interpreting and producing written, spoken and non-verbal language, while taking into account the cultural context.
- Communicating with people in their own language, with an understanding of their culture, facilitates the building of rapport.
- Culture is transmitted through the products, practices and perspectives of a community.
- Gaining knowledge about and empathizing with other cultures leads to greater understanding of one's own culture and others' culture and promotes an enriched and more tolerant society.
- Those studying languages and cultures are poised to be responsible global citizens who are knowledgeable about global challenges.

General Homework and Classroom Policies

Homework is important because it helps students to rehearse and to extend what is taught in class and aids in the establishment of proper study habits. When properly completed, it enhances and underscores classroom work. Students should use homework as a means of determining whether they comprehend the work covered in class. If such comprehension is not occurring, the student should see the teacher for extra help before any evaluation is administered.

Due to the varied nature of teaching and learning styles and course content, the type of homework will differ from class to class. Therefore, each teacher will provide students and parents with a written classroom/homework policy that is relevant to that course.

In the event of an extended student absence, parents can request homework for their child by phoning (860) 345-8541 and contacting the Guidance Department. Absences from school do not exempt students from completing homework. Failure to complete homework will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on a student's grade. World Languages Department teachers maintain a website and assignments are posted on-line.

Plagiarism

Plagiarize (v.) – To steal and use (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own; to appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own.

Source: The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (1980)

The World Languages Department expects and requires students to present their own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form. The Department adheres to the rules and regulations regarding plagiarism as set forth in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism carries strict penalties. Students who submit plagiarized work will receive a zero for that assignment and will be referred to the administration for disciplinary action. This may include loss of credit for the assignment, detentions, denial of prizes, and denial of admission into National Honor Society, Société Honoraire de Français, and Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica.

Plagiarism is theft. If you use anyone else's ideas or writing, photographs, graphics, and don't give him credit, you are stealing. That includes any on-line source (e-magazine, e-newspaper, images, photos, blog comments, etc.). This also includes copying a classmate's homework assignment. If you give a copy of your own work to another student, and that student copies it, you are assisting plagiarism.

Use of on-line translators is prohibited. Your teachers want to know how *you* would say it, not how a computer would. However, an on-line dictionary can be useful, if used appropriately. On-line translating and having a native speaker translate for you are both considered cheating.

There are two simple ways to avoid plagiarism. First, never give copies of your work to anyone. You may discuss assignments, but don't share work. Second, always give credit. Teachers will assist students in the way to properly cite your sources, as well as ways to avoid accidental plagiarism. Students with any questions regarding plagiarism should consult their teacher prior to submitting an assignment.

Prerequisites to Advance to Next Course in the Series

For the student, learning a language requires a commitment as an individual and as a member of a learning and communicating group. It requires hard work, practice and enthusiasm. We, in the Department of World Languages, strive to provide the best learning environment possible with rigorous, interesting assignments which help the student grow and develop.

Since language acquisition is a cumulative process, our experience indicates that the student who does not earn a sufficient score in the last marking period of a course will not succeed in the following course because he/she has not acquired the necessary language skills. Therefore, the department policy for the recommendation of a student to move on to the next course in the sequence includes the following prerequisites: (1) the appropriate prior course and (2) teacher recommendation based on the student's work and skills.

A student who does not meet these requirements will not be recommended to continue on to the next course in the series. However, if the student does wish to continue, he/she may be recommended to repeat the course in order to gain the necessary skills which he/she is lacking.

*If you have any questions, you can reach your child's language teacher through the HKHS Main Office (860-345-8541) or through the district website (www.rsd17.org)

HKHS Core Values and Beliefs

We believe that every member of our community has value. We believe in the power of intellectual curiosity, global responsibility, and personal integrity. We believe in developing the knowledge and skills essential to healthy and productive lives.

HKHS Learning Expectations

In a variety of contexts for a variety of purposes, students will:

1. Demonstrate personal responsibility, character, cultural understanding, and ethical behavior;

2. Communicate clearly and effectively in order to express ideas and connect with others;
3. Investigate, evaluate, and apply information;
4. Work both independently and collaboratively toward a specific outcome;
5. Demonstrate creative, innovative, and reflective thinking.