



This information is intended to assist families as they make world language scheduling decisions in middle and high school. All students receive Spanish instruction in grades K-5. Starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, world languages are elective classes.

**Graduation Requirements**

**All students must earn two credits in World Language** (as with all MPS classes, one year of class equals one credit). **However, the second credit may be fulfilled with the second year of a world language OR an additional Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (VPAA) credit OR a Career-Technical Education (CTE) course of study.** See below for more information about VPAA and CTE courses.

World language courses in grades seven through twelve meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum guidelines and will be noted on the high school transcript. However, world language courses taken during the middle school years will not count toward a student’s GPA. All of the world language classes were written as high school classes, and are assessed at a high school level.

The following are classes offered in middle school and high school. All secondary schools will offer Spanish courses (including lower and upper levels and the Survey courses). Jefferson M.S. and Dow H.S. will also offer German instruction. Northeast M.S. and Midland H.S. will also offer French instruction.

6 <sup>th</sup> grade	Spanish elective (does NOT meet HS grad requirement)	Offered twice a week for 55 minutes. This class is a bridge between elementary and middle school Spanish.
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	French 1 (NEMS) German 1 (JMS) Spanish 1 (both)	<p>Offered five days a week for 55 minutes.</p> <p>These classes meet the state high school graduation requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passing grade in level one and teacher recommendation, or a passing grade on a test-out, is the prerequisite for level two.</li> <li>• A passing grade in level two and teacher recommendation, or a passing grade on a test-out, is the prerequisite for level three.</li> <li>• A passing grade in level three and teacher recommendation, or a passing grade on a test-out, is the prerequisite for IB.</li> </ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	French 1 or 2 (NEMS) German 1 or 2 (JMS) Spanish 1 or 2	
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	French 1, 2, or 3 (MHS) German 1, 2, or 3 (DHS) Spanish 1, 2, or 3 Survey of Spanish 1 or 2	
10 <sup>th</sup> grade	French 1, 2, 3 or IB* (MHS) German 1, 2, 3 or IB* (DHS) Spanish 1, 2, 3 or IB* Survey of Spanish 1 or 2	
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	French 1, 2, 3 or IB* (MHS) German 1, 2, 3 or IB* (DHS) Spanish 1, 2, 3 or IB* Survey of Spanish 1 or 2	
12 <sup>th</sup> grade	French 1, 2, 3 or IB* (MHS) German 1, 2, 3 or IB* (DHS) Spanish 1, 2, 3 or IB* Survey of Spanish 1 or 2	

\* International Baccalaureate world language classes are advanced, rigorous, and offered in French, German and Spanish. They are designed to meet the needs of both IB students and non-IB students. A three-year IB sequence is available for students. Themes and assignments change yearly, so students may start in any year of the sequence and not have to repeat material.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q 1: Do students have to take a world language or is it optional?**

A: Per the state of Michigan graduation requirements, all students are required to take and pass two years of the same world language, although they may replace the second year of world language with other CTE or additional VPAA courses (more information on this below). If students take and pass levels 1 and 2 in middle school, they have met this requirement. If they take and pass level 1 in middle school, they will have met half the requirement.

Students may also fulfill year two of this requirement with an approved CTE or additional VPAA credit. More information can be obtained from school counselors, or in the Secondary Course Offering Guide, or below, regarding this option.

### **Q 2: What choices do students have for world language?**

A: Students may take French, German or Spanish. Spanish is offered at all secondary buildings. Jefferson M.S. and Dow H.S. offer German as a second world language choice. Northeast M.S. and Midland H.S. offer French as their second world language.

We have two sequences for world language:

1. Students may enroll in French, German or Spanish and follow a path that could extend from one to six years. Students would first enroll in the level 1 class.
2. MPS also has a two-year track for Survey of Spanish. This is a less difficult sequence and is not integrated into the other levels of Spanish. If a student completes the two-year Survey of Spanish sequence and wants to continue Spanish study, they may enter Spanish 2.

### **Q 3: Should a student continue with Spanish after having it in elementary school, or begin French or German?**

A: This is a personal decision. All three world languages offered are solid choices; students should consider which language best meets their future needs. It is important that students choose one language and stick with it, as it takes time to become proficient in a world language. In addition, to meet state graduation requirement, students must take and pass two years of the same language, unless they use the VPAA credit or CTE course completion to fulfill the second year requirement.

### **Q 4: Is it better for a student to start a language in middle school or high school?**

A: In general, the earlier a student starts a language the more proficient he or she becomes. Learning a language is about practice, and it takes several years for a student to become proficient. Every student is different and when to start a world language is a personal choice. MPS world language classes were written for high school students, and are assessed at the high school level; they are rigorous classes. In the past middle school students that were ready for high school-level rigor experienced success in these classes, just as they have in advanced Math classes.

### **Q 5: Are world language courses easier in middle school?**

A: Levels 1 and 2 in middle school use the same book and curriculum as levels 1 and 2 in high school, and students are expected to achieve at the high school level in these classes. If a student takes and passes both classes in middle school, they will start at level 3 in high school. The classes at both levels have the same requirements.

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**Q 6: If a student is struggling in his/her English class in middle school, should he or she wait until high school to take a world language class?**

A: A student who is receiving less than a B in English may find grammatical concepts taught in a world language to be more difficult. That student may benefit from two more years of English instruction before taking a world language in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This is one indicator to be considered when making the decision about when to begin world language instruction.

**Q 7: If a student takes two years of the same world language in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, does he or she have to take fewer classes in high school because the world language graduation requirement is out of the way?**

A: By taking the same world language in middle school, a student is able to meet the graduation requirement for world language. The student is still responsible for taking a minimum of 22 credits in high school and attend school for six hours per day. Students are encouraged to take more world language classes to obtain proficiency in the language, but no further classes are required.

**Q 8: What if a student completes two years of Survey of Spanish and wishes to continue his or her study of Spanish?**

A: A student could continue in Spanish and enroll in Spanish 2.

**Q 9: When does a student need to start a world language if he or she wants to be an International Baccalaureate candidate?**

A: International Baccalaureate (IB) is a program for juniors and seniors, however if a student wants to participate in IB world language, he or she needs to start a world language no later than 9<sup>th</sup> grade if the student wants to test Standard Level or 8<sup>th</sup> grade if the student wants to test Higher Level in any of the three languages offered. Because of the rigor of the IB exam, it is highly recommended that a student start the world language sequence in middle school if he or she wants to take the IB exam as a junior or senior.

An alternate path to completing the IB world language requirement is called “Ab initio,” and involves a different approach to world language. Students and parents wanting to know more about this option should contact the high school assistant principal or IB Coordinator for details.

**Q 10: Does a student planning on going to college need to take a world language to be admitted?**

A: Colleges have different requirements for admission and for graduation. A world language class is considered an academic class. A few selective colleges require several years of world language for admission, while others require a world language for graduation. Some have no world language requirement at all. It is recommended that students and parents get information about the world language requirement for the college(s) they are considering.

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**Q 12: What classes may be taken instead of the second year of a World Language?**

A: Students may opt to fulfill the second year of a World Language with an additional VPAA credit taken in high school, or by completing a CTE course of study in high school. It is important to note that students must complete one VPAA credit already. They may take a second VPAA credit and use that credit to replace the second year of world language.

Many CTE courses of study require two years of credits. All VPAA classes and CTE courses of study are listed in the *Secondary Course Offering Guide* and below.

## VISUAL, PERFORMING, AND APPLIED ARTS CREDIT CLASSES

Students are required to pass 1 credit of Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (VPAA) for graduation.

A second VPAA credit is needed if a student elects to substitute VPAA for the second world language credit.

Course	Department
Beginning Art	Art
Intermediate Art	Art
Advanced 2-Dimensional Composition A	Art
Advanced 3-Dimensional Design A	Art
IB Visual Art	Art
Commercial Art	Art
Building Trades & Advanced Building Trades	Career & Technical Education
Computer Aided Design 1 & 2	Career & Technical Education
Computer Technology 2 .2 & .3 (.5 credit)	Career & Technical Education
Culinary Arts	Career & Technical Education
Marketing .2 & .3	Career & Technical Education
Merchandising Operations .2 & .3 (.5 credit)	Career & Technical Education
Sales Management .2 & .3 (.5 credit)	Career & Technical Education
IB Business Management	Career & Technical Education
Introduction to Trades (.5 credit)	Career & Technical Education
Web Design & Adv Web Design (.5 credit each)	Career & Technical Education
Hobby Art Welding (.5 credit)	Career & Technical Education
Welding Technology 1 & 2	Career & Technical Education
Wood Working 1 & 2	Career & Technical Education
Journalism	Language Arts – Publication
Advanced Journalism	Language Arts – Publication
Yearbook	Language Arts – Publication
Debate and Discussion	Language Arts – Speech & Drama
Public Speaking	Language Arts – Speech & Drama
Drama 1	Language Arts – Speech & Drama
Drama 2	Language Arts – Speech & Drama
Drama Production	Language Arts – Speech & Drama
Video Communications	Language Arts – Video Communications
Theory of Knowledge	Miscellaneous
Chorus	Music
Concert Band	Music
Concert Choir	Music
Concert Orchestra	Music
Symphonic Band	Music
Symphony Orchestra	Music
Pre-Vocational Training	Special Education

## STATE-APPROVED CTE PROGRAMS

Completion of a state-approved Career-Technical Education (CTE) program may be used for graduation in lieu of the second year of World Language. Completion of the state-approved programs includes successfully completing each of the classes listed in the program.

### **Accounting, Finance, and Financial Management—1 year**

Accounting 1 (or 1A), 2 semesters

### **Business Administration, Management, and Operations—2 years**

Computer Tech 1 (or 1A), 1 semester

Computer Tech 2 (or 2A), 1 semester

Advanced Business 1A, 1 semester

Advanced Business 2A, 1 semester

### **Digital/Multimedia & Information Resources Design—1 year**

Web Design and Development A, 1 semester

Advanced Web Design and Development H, 1 semester

### **Marketing, Sales, and Service—2 years**

Marketing (or Marketing A), 2 semesters

Merchandising (or Merchandising A), 1 semester

Sales Management (or Sales Management A), 1 semester

### **Automotive Technology—2 years**

Auto Technology 1A (2-hour class), 2 semesters

Auto Technology 2A (2-hour class), 2 semesters

### **Engineering—2 years**

Introduction to Engineering Design, 2 semesters

Principles of Engineering, 2 semesters

### **Construction Trades—2 years**

Building Trades (2-hour class), 2 semesters

Advanced Building Trades (2-hour class), 2 semesters

### **Welding Technology—2 years**

Welding Technology 1, 2 semesters

Welding Technology 2, 2 semesters

### **Agriscience—1 year**

Agriscience (Coleman off-site program, 2-hour class), 2 semesters