



WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



The Passion

The World Language program develops proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing a second language. The cultural aspects of the language, customs, geography, history, and current events are also explored. We believe that knowledge of other languages and cultures prepares students for their future in an increasingly global community. Learning about other cultures helps students expand their horizons and become responsible citizens. Additionally, studying language can improve students' interpretive and analytic abilities. Research shows that math and verbal SAT scores climb higher with each additional year of foreign language study.

The Program

Jesuit requires students to take **at least two years of the same language**. Approximately 330 juniors and seniors choose to continue for a third or fourth year of their language. Some students also choose to study a second language after their freshman year.

Jesuit offers these language classes:

- Spanish levels 1-5
 - AP Spanish 5—most U.S. universities offer college credit for scores of 3 and higher
 - Language & Culture is a Portland State University class offered to JHS students after Spanish 4
- French levels 1-6
 - Level 5 is AP; level 6 is a joint class with level 5
- Chinese levels 1-5
 - Level 5 is AP

The Curriculum

Advanced Placement: Jesuit High School offers three Advanced Placement (AP) courses approved by the College Board: Spanish, French, and Chinese. Jesuit students continue to score above state and national averages for exams in all three languages.

Spanish: The Spanish program is the largest of the three languages offered at Jesuit High School. The program emphasizes oral and written proficiency, grammar and vocabulary, and focuses on the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Thematic units include immigration, peace and justice, heroes, Islamic Spain, and various artists, painters, and writers, as well as common holidays and cultural themes.

Jesuit offers levels 1-5 (AP), as well as a Language & Culture (Lengua y Cultura) class at 5th year level.

Advanced Placement Spanish V has academic requirements for students completing Spanish IV or Lengua y Cultura, with teacher recommendation and AP teacher approval. Students receiving passing scores may receive 15 or more college credits to the majority of universities. Average JHS student scores on the 2016 AP Spanish Exam exceeded state and national scores. Jesuit students scored an average of 4.28, Oregon's average was a 3.79, and the National average score was 3.77 for 2016.

Lengua y Cultura is a course designed for students who have completed Spanish IV or Spanish IV Honors. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit at Portland State University through this course.

Language and Service: Several Jesuit students each year combine their Spanish skills with our Christian Service program, participating in service projects for 1-8 weeks in Latin America. In years past, students participated in a variety of exchange programs. In summer 2013, we began an annual exchange with a Catholic high school in Valencia, Spain.

The Spanish program also offers summer courses at Jesuit High School for students who would like to be considered for a higher level or for students who would like to strengthen their proficiency in the language.

French: The French program focuses on the cultural diversity of the francophone world, primarily Europe, Africa and North America. Global awareness is key, as are current cultural practices. We emphasize oral and written proficiency with a solid base of grammar and vocabulary.

Jesuit offers levels 1-6, with level 5 our AP class and level 6 a mixed class with 5th year students. Every other year we participate in an exchange with a French Jesuit school in Vannes, France; we welcome their students here, then 12 of our students spend 2-3 weeks in France. This exchange gives students the opportunity to hear and use the language in real life and to experience another culture firsthand.

Chinese: Offering levels I – AP V, the Chinese language learning curriculum is integrated throughout every level. In **levels I and II** students become acquainted with the written language and the Chinese culture. **Chinese**

III develops communication in the area of expressing opinions and conveying more complex ideas as well as writing. **Chinese IV** continues language development with a focus on authentic literature samples, advanced vocabulary, and responding at the advanced level both verbally and in written form. **Advanced Placement Chinese V** advances language development to more sophisticated communication using thematic topics and exposes students to traditional festivals, customs and current events. This course prepares students for the AP Chinese College Board Exam.

The Placement

Language placement is determined by the World Language Department in conjunction with the Academic Vice-Principal. **Challenge exams are offered in late April** to identify students who have skills beyond their initial placement. Students who have previously studied the language they wish to take at Jesuit are encouraged to take the exam.

Language Co-Curriculars

- Spanish National Honor Society
- French National Honor Society
- Legado Latino
- Global Perspectives Club
- Chinese Culture Club
- French “film et fête” lunches

Faculty

The Jesuit High School World Language Department consists of 10 teachers with an average of 11 years of teaching experience. Eight members of the department hold advanced degrees.

For more information, please contact:

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