

Cambridge High School

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Dear parents and guardians of Cambridge 2019-2020 World Language students,

The World Languages Department at Cambridge is excited to have your child study a language in our department. We welcome the opportunity to share our passion for languages, and we are committed to helping you and your child choose the best class based on proven criteria and past data. Please use this letter and the attached documents to assist in your course selection.

Learning a different language is a beneficial and unique experience. Fulton County's research-based goal of 90% target language use in class boosts student proficiency, but it also requires close attention from students every day. The World Language classroom is the main vehicle for learning a language, so regular attendance is crucial. Students do not learn languages simply by sitting passively in the classroom through the year, but rather by taking risks and actively engaging in all class activities on a daily basis. Additionally, it is difficult to gain language proficiency through an online format as the traditional classroom is the ideal venue for engaging with the teacher and other students while hearing and speaking the target language.

A student's class selection should be guided first by the current teacher's recommendation. Cambridge World Language teachers work hard to make purposeful and professional recommendations that set the student up for future success. At Cambridge, we do not use a formula or set grade for recommendations. Instead, we start with district guidelines but look closely at each student's individual situation, including current achievement, learning style, and motivation level. As a parent, you will also wish to consider your child's workload in other classes, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and family demands. Please contact your child's teacher with recommendation questions.

Cambridge World Language teachers look forward to partnering with our parents and students for a positive and enjoyable experience of developing language proficiency in 2019-2020. We thank you in advance for your support of World Languages at Cambridge High School.

Rachel Dines, M.A.
French Teacher
World Languages Department Chair

French teachers:

Rachel Dines
Ann LeClair-Ash
Sally Cook

Spanish teachers:

Leo Barker
Christine Dysert
José Franco

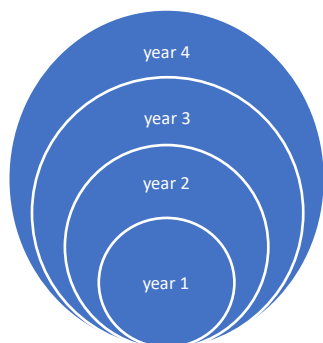
Latin teacher:

Jeff Davis

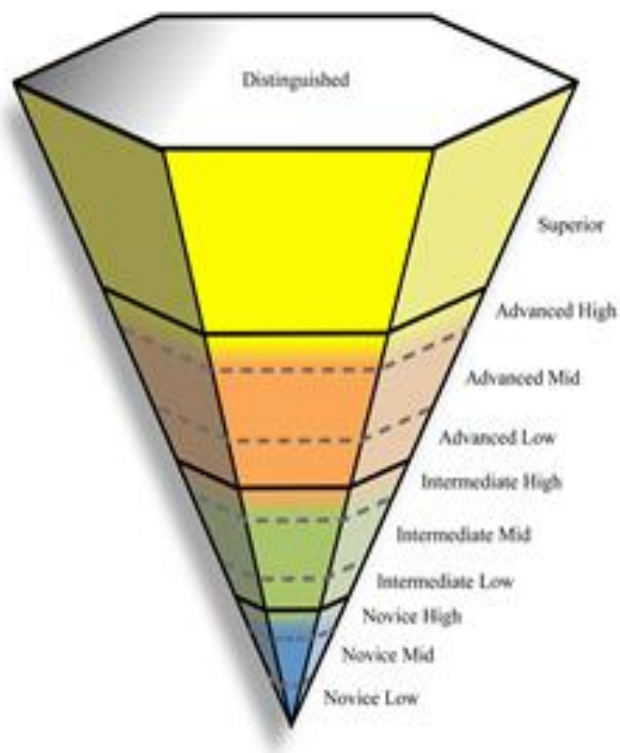
Eilleen Poulos
Cecilia Redman
Catherine Rowland

Learning a world language

It is important to note that, unlike some subjects, world languages are cumulative from unit to unit, semester to semester, and year to year. As some teachers say, “it’s all cumulative, all the time.” Here are models of what learning a language looks like:



As students move up in proficiency, they also broaden their language learning, as seen in this graphic from the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages. Language proficiency takes a lot of time, which is why we offer many courses so each student can take 4 years of a world language at Cambridge to develop their best proficiency.



 ACTFL Inverted Pyramid Representing ACTFL Rating Scale with Major Ranges and Sublevels including Distinguished

Special note for rising freshman parents:

Please remember that “year 1” of a world language is spread out over 2 or 3 years in middle school. This means that in high school, the rigor and speed are more intense in world language classes (double or triple the speed). Freshman world language students will need to recalibrate their study habits and classroom engagement to ensure success. Additionally, the teaching methods used may differ from those used at the middle school level as students begin upper level classes, so students will need to adapt to new strategies.

Benefits of learning a world language: a document from the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

How does language learning support academic achievement?

Click on the statement to review the specific studies that support this claim.

Language learning correlates with higher academic achievement on standardized test measures.

Language learning is beneficial to both monolingual English and English language learners in bilingual and two-way immersion programs.

Language learning is beneficial in the development of students' reading abilities.

There is evidence that language learners transfer skills from one language to another.

There is a correlation between second language learning and increased linguistic awareness.

There is a correlation between language learning and students' ability to hypothesize in science.

Language learning can benefit all students.

There is a correlation between young children's second language development and the development of print awareness.

Heritage learners who use their language skills to interpret and translate for family members experience higher academic performance and greater self-efficacy.

There is a correlation between language study and higher scores on the SAT and ACT Tests.

There is a correlation between high school foreign language study and higher academic performance at the college level.

HOW DOES LANGUAGE LEARNING PROVIDE COGNITIVE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS?

Click on the statement to review the specific studies that support this claim.

There is evidence that early language learning improves cognitive abilities.

There is evidence bilingualism correlates with increased cognitive development and abilities.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and the offset of age-related cognitive losses.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and attentional control on cognitive tasks.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and intelligence.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and metalinguistic skills.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and memory skills.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and problem solving ability.

There is a correlation between bilingualism and improved verbal and spatial abilities.

Find out more about the benefits of language learning by investigating these resources.

Find out more about the benefits of bilingualism by investigating these reviews of the literature.

HOW DOES LANGUAGE LEARNING AFFECT ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ABOUT LANGUAGE LEARNING AND ABOUT OTHER CULTURES?

Click on the statement to review the specific studies that support this claim.

Research suggests that language learners develop a more positive attitude toward the target language and/or the speakers of that language.

Helpful Resources on the topic of attitudes and foreign language learning.

- See more at: <http://www.actfl.org/advocacy/what-the-research-shows#sthash.uPwZDTFD.dpuf>



Honors or On-level World Language Courses: Decision Guide for the Best Fit



The decision to enroll in an on-level or honors language course is very personal and important. Students and their

parents/guardians should carefully consider the current teacher's recommendation as well as student's interest level in the language, motivation, learning style, and demands outside of school. Decisions should **not** be based on staff as teaching assignments may change from year to year. It is important to make the correct choice during course requests the year before as it is difficult to change classes after the school year starts.

All World Language courses:

- Concentrate on 5 skills: listening, reading, speaking, writing, and culture
- Provide opportunities for developing speaking and listening proficiency
- Address vocabulary and grammar necessary to master the standards of each skill level
- Prepare students for the next level of language study
- Provide opportunities to experience culture of countries studied

On-Level World Language courses:

- More emphasis is put on practice with vocabulary, structures, speaking and listening
- Assessments are less rigorous than in honors classes
- Instruction involves more repetition

Honors World Language courses:

- Move at a quicker pace
- Do more in-depth assignments
- Feature more rigorous assessments
- Teachers and students use the target language
- More projects & pre-AP strategies
- More complex language production expected
- Designed to culminate in AP courses
- 7 extra points added to grade

Sample learning statements that may indicate on-level is the best fit:

- I am more comfortable working on one task at a time.
- I prefer more guidance and specific directions from teachers.
- I have relied on recovery for many assessments in the past.
- I usually complete the minimum requirements on assignments/projects because I have so many other things going on.
- Memorizing is a challenge for me.
- When I am absent, I sometimes have difficulty completing make-up assignments.
- I would rather complete a simple, straight forward assignment than a project that requires lots of time and creativity.
- I prefer to receive more reinforcement from teachers and more practice.
- I'm taking a world language just to get the credit.

Sample learning statements that may indicate honors is the best fit:

- I am a self-directed learner.
- I tend to get bored in class because I understand the material before my classmates do.
- I am consistently prepared for class and complete makeup work right away.
- I can easily memorize information and multi-task.
- I test well the first time and have not relied on recovery to score well on assessments.
- I think projects that require creativity are fun, and I like the challenge of completing them.
- I prefer open-ended assignments to structured ones.
- I'm looking forward to taking upper levels and AP level of this language.
- I'm taking a world language to develop a skill and help me in my career, travel, or family.
- I really enjoy learning the language and culture.
- I hope to speak the language well in the future.

What about online classes?

The ideal setting for learning a world language is the traditional classroom, where students can hear and practice the language with others on a regular basis and benefit from the teacher's expertise and cultural knowledge. Online classes may have curricula and teaching methods that differ greatly from the Cambridge classroom experience. In addition, online classes can have many assignments that would not seem burdensome in the context of a regular classroom but may feel overwhelming in an online situation. Two years' worth of Cambridge online student data shows a failure rate 2-3 times greater in online Spanish 2 and 3 courses than in the classroom. Additionally, it may be difficult for a student who has taken a class online to return to the regular classroom at Cambridge. We work very hard in our World Languages Department at striving for consistency among the languages and levels, thus students who continue their world language studies within the department will benefit from these efforts. Please talk to a Cambridge world languages teacher if you have further questions.

What about native or heritage speakers who want to skip lower-level classes?

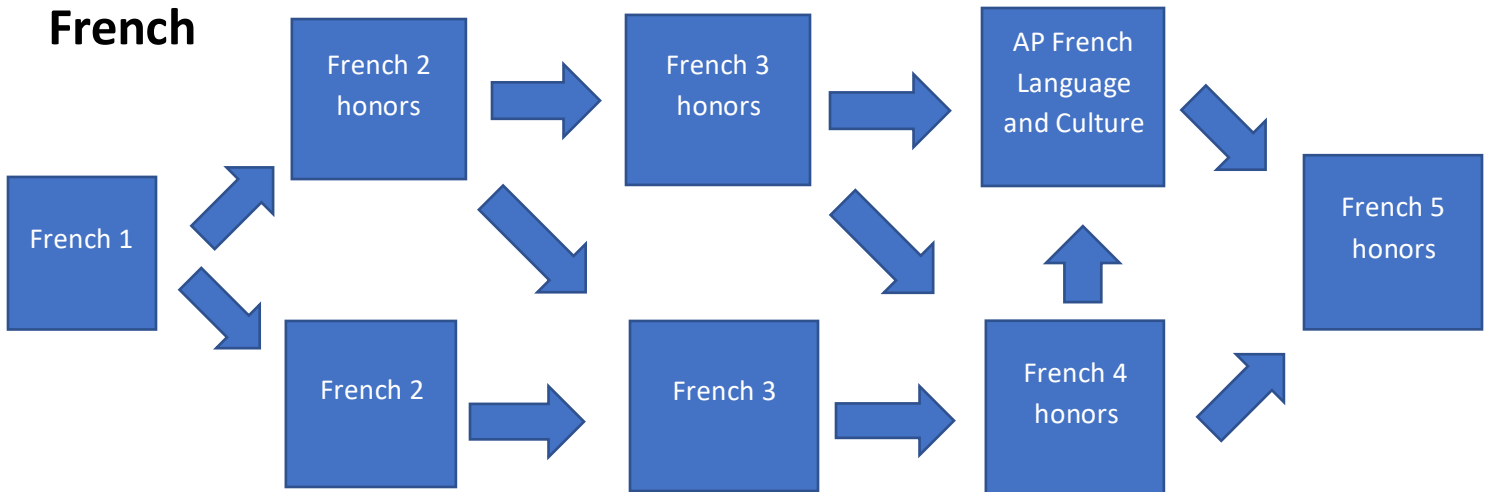
We have many students at Cambridge who speak Spanish or French at home and ask to take advanced classes in that language (4 honors or AP) without taking the lower levels first. We have a system specifically set up to test them ahead of time to determine their best placement for success. A native/heritage speaker needs to talk with a counselor about the possibility of taking these classes during the course selection time the year before. The counselor will refer that student to the World Language Department for testing. Please note that it is not recommended to break up the years studying another language to switch to a native language course. The student should complete the courses in the third language first, then take the advanced native language course. This ensures continuity and best success in all world language courses.

Cambridge High School

World Languages Progression Patterns

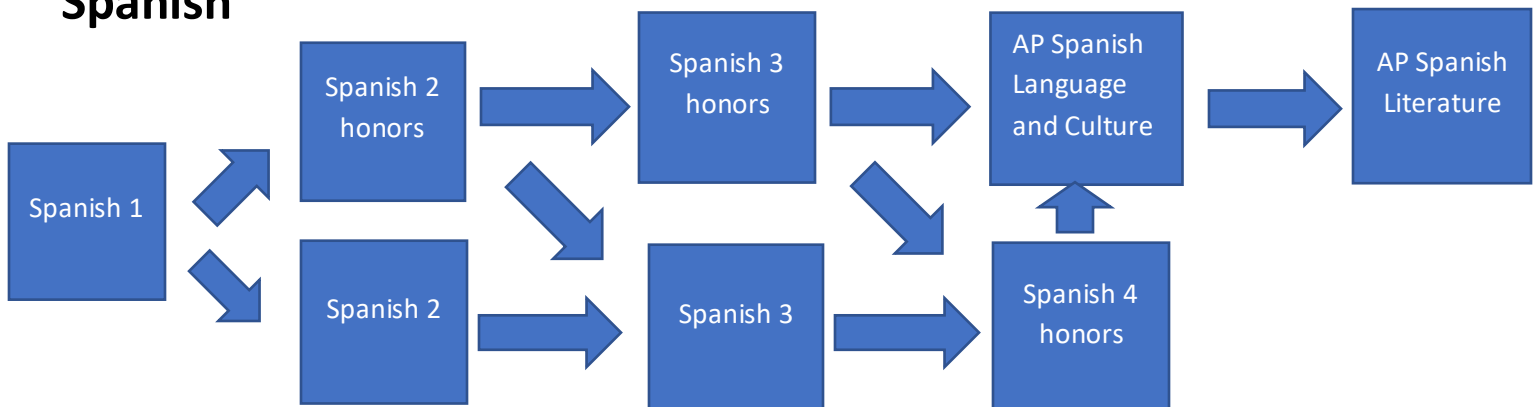
(Please follow teacher recommendation for best success at each level.)

French



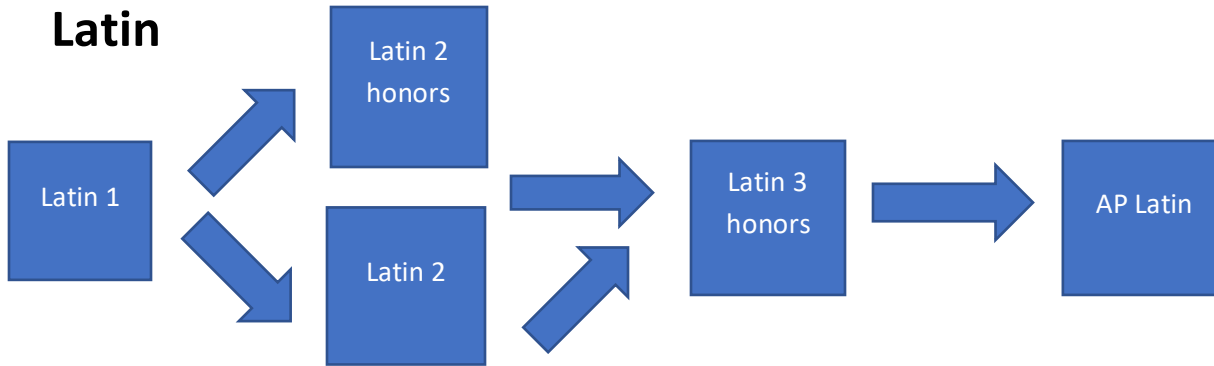
(Please follow teacher recommendation for best success at each level)

Spanish



(Please follow teacher recommendation for best success at each level)

Latin



WORLD LANGUAGE Course Number Progression for 2017 – 2018

Current Class Next Options Course Numbers

Spanish 1	Spanish 2 Spanish 2 Honors	60.0720000 60.0720040
Spanish 2	Spanish 3 Spanish 3 Honors	60.0730000 60.0730040
Spanish 2 Honors	Spanish 3 Spanish 3 Honors	60.0730000 60.0730040
Spanish 3	Spanish 4 Honors	60.0740040
Spanish 3 Honors	Spanish 4 Honors AP Spanish Language & Culture	60.0740040 60.0770010
Spanish 4 Honors	AP Spanish Language & Culture	60.0770010
AP Spanish Lang. & Culture	AP Spanish Literature	60.0780010

French 1	French 2	60.0120000
	French 2 Honors	60.0120040
French 2	French 3	60.0130000
	French 3 Honors	60.0130040
French 2 Honors	French 3	60.0130000
	French 3 Honors	60.0130040
French 3	French 4 Honors	60.0140010
French 3 Honors	French 4 Honors	60.0140010
	AP French Language & Culture	60.0170010
French 4 Honors	AP French Language & Culture	60.0170010
	French 5 Honors	60.0150000
AP French Language	French 5 Honors	60.0150000
Latin 1	Latin 2	61.0420000
	Latin 2 Honors	61.0420040
Latin 2 OR	Latin 3 Honors	61.0430040
Latin 2 Honors		
Latin 3 Honors	AP Latin	61.0480010

Q&A

Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First

World Languages: Why Learn French?

Why Learn French?

- Learning French will help you understand your own language.
- Nearly 30% of modern English words find their origins in French.
- French is spoken in 57 countries and territories on 5 major continents.
- French has approximately 75 million native speakers and 190 million secondary speakers.
- French is the second most commonly taught world language in the United States.
- The Ga DOE has established an MOU between Ga Tech and Nancy-Metz in France.

French in Business

- France has the fifth largest economy in the world.
- France is Georgia's 3rd largest trading partner
- There are 70 French companies doing business in Fulton County
- French is an official language of the United States' largest trading partner, Canada.
- There are over 225 French companies in the state of Georgia

French in the World

- French is the official working language of major international organizations, including the United Nations, International Olympic Committee, and International Red Cross.
- French is the second most spoken diplomatic language in the world.
- More tourists visit France than any other country in the world.

Which schools in Fulton County offer French?

- All Middle and High Schools in Fulton County offer French.
- Middle schools offer French as a High School Credit with successful completion of the 7th and 8th grade years.
- High Schools offer on-level and honors courses in French up to Advanced Placement French.
 - o Riverwood International Charter High School offers IB French SL and HL in lieu of AP French. Students may still request to take the AP exam.

Is French offered in Fulton County Virtual School?

- Yea. French is currently offered in Fulton County Virtual School.



Learning Spanish can have both short- and long-term benefits through the introduction and acquisition of a new language and culture.

Why Learn Spanish?

- Learning Spanish will provide a better understanding of English.
- Knowing Spanish enhances one's marketability as a business and industry employee
- Spanish will enhance your travel experiences.
- Spanish will help to improve your employment potential for the public sector.
- Spanish is the fourth most common language among the internet community.

Spanish in the United States

- There are over 50 million Spanish speakers in the United States.
- 40% of the U.S. population growth comes from people of Hispanic origin.
- In the U.S., Hispanic consumers are the fastest-growing market segment.
- The Spanish-speaking population of the United States has grown exponentially; learning Spanish will provide a better understanding of their culture, practices and perspectives.
- Spanish is the most popular world language to learn in the United States.

Spanish in the World

- There are over 400 million speakers of Spanish.
- Spanish is the 3rd most commonly spoken language in the world.
- There are more native speakers of Spanish than native speakers of English.
- Spanish is an official language on three continents.
- Spanish is the mother tongue of 21 countries.

Which schools in Fulton County offer Spanish?

- All Middle Schools offer Spanish as a unit of High School Credit for students who qualify.
- All High Schools offer Level 1 to Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language.
 - Riverwood International Charter High School offers IB Spanish SL and HL in lieu of AP Spanish. Students may still request to take the AP exam.
- Select Elementary Schools are phasing in Spanish language instruction. Currently, High Point and Lake Forest ES's offer Spanish specials K-5.

Is Spanish offered in Fulton County Virtual School?

- Yes. Spanish is currently offered in Fulton County Virtual School.

Will students be able to request a World Language curriculum hardship to take Spanish if it is not offered at their home school?

- No. Spanish is offered at all Fulton County Middle and High Schools.

QA

Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First

World Languages: Why Learn Latin?

Learning Latin can have both short- and long-term benefits through the introduction and acquisition of a new language and culture.

Why Learn Latin?

"I will say at once, quite firmly, that the best grounding for education is the Latin grammar. I say this not because Latin is traditional and medieval, but simply because even a rudimentary knowledge of Latin cuts down the labor and pains of learning almost any other subject by at least 50 percent." Dorothy Sayers, linguist

- Learning Latin facilitates the comprehension of English grammar structure
- Latin helps maximize SAT verbal scores. Through Latin, test takers can guess the meanings of new words because they are familiar with word roots and prefixes.
- Approximately 60% of English vocabulary is derived from Latin
- Learning Latin helps you speak and write better in French, German, Italian, and Spanish.
- Over 90% of French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish is derived from Latin
- Latin allows us to learn about our past through studying ancient culture.
- Latin allows us to become more acquainted with mythical references in literature.
- Latin helps develop brain power by encouraging observation, comparison and analysis of the English language.
- Latin aids in legal and medical professions, as well as with any profession requiring highly-developed speaking and writing skills.

Which schools in Fulton County offer Latin?

- High Schools
 - o Alpharetta HS, Cambridge HS, Chattahoochee HS, Johns Creek HS, Milton HS, North Springs Charter HS, Northview HS, Roswell HS, Tri-Cities HS, Westlake HS
- Middle Schools
 - o Autrey Mill MS, Sandy Springs Charter MS, Taylor Road MS, Webb Bridge MS, Woodland MS

Is Latin offered in Fulton County Virtual School?

- Yes. Latin is currently offered in Fulton County Virtual School.

Will students be able to request a World Language curriculum hardship to take Latin if it is not offered at their home school?

- Yes. Consideration is given for a transfer to the nearest middle or high school which offers core course or programs of study not available within the curriculum of the middle or high school to which a student is zoned. In accordance with Georgia Department of Education Rule 160-4-2.47, Foreign language is a core course.
- Transportation to the approved school is the responsibility of the parent.