

Common Questions about World Languages at AHS

The primary goal of the World Languages Department is to give students the opportunity to become familiar with a language other than their own. Students learn to use, understand and communicate in a new language, in its spoken and written form. Through the language, the student will learn the cultural heritage of other lands and become acquainted with customs and thoughts of other people.

All of our Languages offer an AP class upon successful completion of the lower level classes!!! In order to reach eligibility for our AP program it is important that students begin a language during their freshmen year!!!! **The World Language Department highly encourages students to begin a language during their freshmen year.**

1. How many years of a world language are needed to graduate from AHS?

- ⇒ To graduate you will need to take one year of fine arts **or** one year of a world language.
- ⇒ To meet college entrance requirements:
 - **UC** and **CAL STATE** two years are required; three are highly recommended
 - Most 4 year colleges have the same requirements as **UC**

2. What are the requirements for advancing to the next level of a world language?

- ⇒ A **C** both semesters of the prior year or a “**rising C**”
 - If a student receives a **D** first semester, a **B** is required in the second semester to average a “**rising C**”
- ⇒ The foundational skills acquired at the lower levels are essential as students move through the program. It is of the utmost important that your child seek out additional help from his/her teacher if he/she falls behind. Problem areas at the beginning levels need to be addressed as early as possible as they provide the foundation for continued language learning.

3. Can my child take more than one language at AHS at the same time?

- ⇒ Only if he/she has completed at least 2 years of the same language and can fit it into his/her schedule.
- ⇒ This will also depend on available space in the class. Students enrolling in a language for the first time will have priority over a student who has already fulfilled his/her language requirements.

4. Where does my child fit into the AHS language program if he or she has prior knowledge of the language?

- ⇒ All students with prior knowledge of the language who wish to enroll in a language familiar to them must take a placement test which includes an interview and written exam.
- ⇒ Students will then be placed in the appropriate level.
- ⇒ If a student is ready for SAT II in a language he or she wishes to take, he/she is beyond what our program offers and we encourage him/her to begin another language.

5. Does AHS offer language advancement classes during the summer?

- ⇒ Arcadia Education Foundation offers some language classes for advancement. These classes are offered during the summer at AHS and follow the established curriculum and materials.
- ⇒ Advancement to the next level follows the same guidelines as if the class were taken at AHS during the regular academic school year.

If you have any further questions you may contact World Languages Department Chairperson, Mrs. Karen DuBerke-Montenegro at kmontenegro@ausd.net