

# World Languages in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." - Nelson Mandela

## Why is World (Foreign) Language study important?

The NC State Board of Education has identified proficiency in multiple languages an vital skill for students prepared for the 21st century. The most obvious benefit to multilingualism is the ability to communicate with people from around the world. Students not only gain a greater awareness and understanding of other people and cultures, they acquire an indispensable skill in our global economy. Proficiency in another language also provides

a student with expanded career opportunities. In addition to long range benefits, studies have shown that World Language study correlates with higher scores on standardized verbal and math tests along with overall improved school performance. Students gain a better understanding of English, its structure, vocabulary, and syntax through learning another language. Students are also able to learn other content, such



as history, geography, math, science, and art in the language. In today's society, the ability to communicate in languages other than English is vital. In WS/FCS we are striving to meet this need!

## When can my child begin to learn a world language?

Elementary students can acquire another language through dual language immersion programs. Immersion is the best way to learn another language and provides students with the content knowledge and skills they need as

well. Smith Farm and Speas Elementary Schools offer a Spanish immersion program. Chinese immersion is available at Konnoak Elementary School. Spanish immersion for native/heritage Spanish speakers is available at

Diggs-Latham, Easton, and Old Town Elementary Schools. A NC study shows that immersion programs help to close the achievement gap. Plan a visit to see an immersion program in action!



### Special points of interest:

- *Reasons for learning a second language*
- *Language study options in WS/FCS*
- *What parents can do to help*
- *Excellence in Teaching*

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## When can my child begin... (con't from 1st page)

In middle school, students have the opportunity to learn a variety of languages. Spanish is offered at all middle schools and French is available at a majority of the schools. Chinese and German are also offered at Paisley Middle School and Latin is offered at Hanes, Paisley and Wiley Middle Schools. Spanish for Native Speakers is also available at most middle schools for heritage speakers of Spanish.

Our high schools offer a larger variety of World (Foreign) Language courses. Students may continue their study from middle school, or they may begin to study Spanish, French, Latin, German, Japanese, Chinese, American Sign Language, or Spanish for Native

Speakers. Middle school students are able to receive high school credit for the Level 1 of a language by completing the 3 year sequence of courses in middle school. If students enroll in a Level I or II Foreign Language course as 9th Graders, they would be able to take an AP course in that language before graduation.



## What can parents do to help their children?

You don't have to speak the language your child is learning in order to help them. Often, children are able to teach others what they have learned in class. While at first they may be reluctant, if you ask a student to try to explain what they have learned, they are mastering the information while teaching it to you. Frequently, simply asking them to talk through their assignment will help students work out any confusion they might have and helps them to master the concepts. Many learners enjoy free apps such as Duolingo for extra practice. For younger learners, there are many

websites and software programs. *Kidspeak* is a publisher of language software for children, and World of Reading ([www.wor.com](http://www.wor.com)) has a variety of products available. You might also check your child's teacher's website for links to helpful websites that have games and flashcards.

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*Ask your child to teach you what s/he is learning in class. Don't take "Nothing" for an answer.*

## Excellence in Teaching

The WS/FCS World (Foreign) Language Program is strong because we have dedicated teachers who are striving to prepare our students for the global society in which we now live. World Language teachers in this district go the extra mile, and many have been recognized for their extraordinary efforts.

Each year World Language teachers are recognized as Teacher of the Year for their school. In 2011-2020, 23 teachers of Spanish, French, and German were chosen as Teachers of the Year, representing elementary, middle, and high schools.

Many high schools have Honor Societies for language students with high achievement. Students at several schools have the opportunity to participate in activities such as NC German Day and the National Junior Classical League competitions.

Language teachers and our schools have been recog-

nized for various awards and honors. The Career Center was named a "Partner Schule" by the German Consulate, one of only two public high schools in NC with this honor.

Several World Language teachers in the district have earned National Board certification. Others have received professional scholarships to go abroad, such as those awarded by the Southern Conference on Language Teaching, and Fullbright scholarships. Several teachers have been awarded Donors Choose and Eco Lab grants.

The WS/FCS system is proud of the World Language Program and the many dedicated teachers who are vital to its continued success!

