

## *Foreign Language*

The two main purposes of learning a foreign language are communication and appreciation of cultural diversity. As our world becomes a smaller place, owing to the multiple and far-reaching communications networks which currently exist, interaction with other countries becomes more probable and immediate.

Even in our own country, one does not have to venture far from home to find places in which to converse in another language. Since language and culture are inextricably bound together, cultural understanding is developed along with the skill of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Moreover, in the learning of another language, students begin to make better connections with English, which results in a better understanding of their own language and of their own culture.

The foreign language program in Shrewsbury Public Schools begins in grade six. Because the program articulates from year to year, students who have completed grade six Spanish, French or Mandarin Chinese will continue to study the same language in grade seven and eight. Students also have the option to begin the study of Latin in grade seven.

In the 6 - 12 foreign language program sequence, concentration will be on the four basic skills of speaking, listening, writing and reading. Assessments are standards based and are designed to allow students to demonstrate their proficiency in each of these skill areas. The curriculum is tailored to age level and aligned to the Massachusetts Foreign Language Frameworks. Each year, foreign language study becomes more focused and more rigorous with the goal of preparing all students for a smooth transition into the high school program.

Within the last decade, traditional approaches to teaching foreign languages have yielded to new, performance-based approaches that have a common focus on the student's ability to use the language beyond the classroom in real life situations. Emphasis is placed on what the student can do with the language, independent of how the language was learned, what methods were involved or what materials were used.

### **Grade 7 and 8 Spanish**

#### **Grade 7**

In Grade 7 Spanish, students will demonstrate an understanding of the target language via assessment in the skills areas of listening, speaking, writing, reading and culture.

Students will be able to identify, ask and answer questions about, listen, read, speak and write in context about the following topics:

- School schedules and subjects
- Student activities
- Indicating location
- Personality traits
- Descriptions of people and things
- Grammatical structures including definite and indefinite articles, subject pronouns; noun and adjective agreement, present tense of regular and irregular verbs, and subject/verb agreement
- Cultural perspectives and practices in the Spanish speaking countries related to course material

## **Grade 8**

Students continue the study of Spanish with continued focus on developing the four skills. Emphasis will be on refining grammatical structure and pronunciation. Students who meet the Spanish standards in grade 8 will have achieved sufficient competency to enter Spanish II at the high school the following year.

At the conclusion of the grade eight foreign language experience, students will be able to identify vocabulary, ask and answer questions, listen, read, speak and write in context about the following topics:

- Family and family celebrations
- Ordering a meal in a restaurant
- Places in the community
- Describing people
- Describing a bedroom and items found there
- Grammatical structures include continued focus on verb/subject agreement, present tense of regular and irregular verbs, possessive words, interrogative words, agreement of nouns and adjectives, making comparisons, and idiomatic expressions
- Cultural perspectives and practices in Spanish speaking countries

## **Grade 7 and 8 French**

### **Grade 7**

In French, students will demonstrate an understanding of the target language via assessment in the skills areas of listening, speaking, writing, reading and culture.

Students will be able to identify, ask and answer questions about, use in conversation and read and write in context about the following topics:

- Months, weather, seasons when sports are played

- Sports and daily activities/likes and dislikes
- Cafe foods: ordering food and beverages/paying the check
- Accepting or declining an invitation
- Expressing opinions/making a recommendation/making excuses
- Introducing people and identifying family members
- Grammatical structures including: definite and indefinite articles; subject pronouns, placement and agreement of adjectives, possessive adjectives, subject / verb agreement, contractions, interrogative construction, present tense verbs.
- Cultural perspectives and practices in the French speaking world

## **Grade 8**

Students continue the study of French with continued focus on developing the four skills. Emphasis will be on refining grammatical structure and pronunciation. Students who meet the French standards in grade 8 will have achieved sufficient competency to enter French II at the high school the following year.

At the conclusion of the grade eight foreign language experience, students will be able to identify, ask and answer questions about, use in conversation and read and write in context about the following topics:

- Weekend activities with friends
- Asking for opinions and prices
- Paying a compliment
- Family
- Cultural celebrations
- Shopping: foods/clothing
- Preparing for upcoming events/assigning household chores
- Talking on the telephone, making plans, making a decision
- Grammatical structures include continued focus on verbs, making comparisons, agreement of nouns and adjectives, the use of possessive adjectives, adjectives used as nouns; disjunctive pronouns, direct object pronouns
- Cultural perspectives: sports in Quebec and France; French cuisine; Family values

## **Grade 7 and 8 Latin**

### **Grade 7**

Students will begin the study of Latin in grade seven by developing an appreciation of the importance of Latin as the basis of all Romance languages, as well as the rich and varied civilizations of the Romans and the Greeks. With emphasis on vocabulary, grammar and culture, students will be able to:

- Identify, recite and write names of Roman months, days, numerals etc.
- Identify, recite and write names of body parts, family, gods and goddesses

- Demonstrate an understanding of correct grammatical structures for cases of nouns in declensions
- Demonstrate an understanding of correct grammatical structures for verbs in present tense of all conjugations; imperative mood; infinitives; irregular verbs; nominative forms of pronouns; ablative pronouns; accusative pronouns
- Read, relate and write about cultural information regarding gods and goddesses; the Roman family, the Roman temple and Roman homes and living spaces

## Grade 8

Students continue the study of Latin in grade eight with additional focus on grammatical structure and cultural information. Students who meet the standards in grade 8 Latin will have sufficient competency to enter Latin II at the high school level the following year.

At the conclusion of grade eight Latin, students will be able to:

- Decline and translate any noun of the first three declensions
- Decline and translate noun/adjective pairs with both first and second declension adjectives and third declension adjectives and nouns in any declension 1-3
- Conjugate, recognize, and understand all verbs, conjugations 1-4 in present, imperfect, future and perfect tenses, active voice
- Read, understand, and relate cultural information about Res Militaria, Slavery in the Ancient World, Roman gladiators, the city of Rome, Roman politics and government, Roman travel, Shakespeare's Ovid

## Grade 7 and 8 Mandarin Chinese

### Grade 7

In Mandarin Chinese, students will demonstrate an understanding of the target language via assessment in the skills areas of listening, speaking, writing and reading and culture.

At the conclusion of the grade 7 foreign language experience, students will be able to identify, ask and answer questions about, use in conversation and read and write in context about the following topics:

- Interrogative words to ask questions relating to birthday (month/date/year), confirmation of date and asking permission
- Daily life and routine (including leisure activities) along with telling time
- Rooms in the house, location of people, things and objects
- Clothes/shopping/visiting a friend's home
- Phone conversations
- Eating in a restaurant

- Weather expressions
- Grammatical structures include verbs, nouns; interrogatives, word placement; pronunciation with tones
- Cultural perspectives: the lunar calendar; Chinese tea; silk; giving gifts in China; Chinese food; Travel in China

## Grade 8

Students continue the study of Mandarin with continued focus on developing the four skills.

Emphasis will be on refining grammatical structure and pronunciation. Students who meet the Mandarin standards in grade 8 will have achieved sufficient competency to enter Mandarin II at the high school the following year.

At the conclusion of the grade 8 foreign language experience, students will be able to identify, ask and answer questions about, use in conversation and read and write in context about the following topics:

- Inviting friends and visiting friends
- Making phone calls
- Dining in a Chinese restaurant
- Weather expressions
- Hobbies/sports/school life
- Keeping a diary
- Grammatical structures include: verbs construction/interrogatives, focus on sentence structure, pronunciation.
- Cultural perspectives: traditional Chinese clothing; Cultural Revolution, Chinese New Year; Chinese folk art, history of China