

NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Essential Curriculum

World Language

Grades 6-8

The primary goal of World Language Instruction grades 6-8 is proficiency. Language proficiency offers students the personal satisfaction of acquiring practical marketable skills, in order to function in a global society. The World Language program promotes an awareness of multicultural similarities and enforces the Major Goals of the National Standards of Foreign Language Learning. There are six domains:

- Communication
- Cultures
- Connections
- Comparisons among Languages
- Comparisons among Cultures and Communities

The World Language program offers all 6-8 grade students the opportunity to study either Spanish or French. Upon completion of grade 8, students will be able to:

- 1. Use another language to communicate with others.**
 - a. Exchange information with peers and the teacher about their everyday lives.
 - b. Give and follow directions in order to travel from one location to another.
 - c. Ask questions for clarification.
 - d. Acquire goods through basic negotiations.
 - e. Work in groups to plan events and activities.
 - f. Exchange thoughts about people, activities, and events in their communities.
 - g. Find alternate methods of communication.
- 2. Understand what others are trying to communicate.**
 - a. Comprehend the main ideas when listening to others.
 - b. Understand the main themes and details from authentic television, radio or live presentations.
 - c. Work individually to collect data on familiar topics from electronic resources.
 - d. Identify the principal characters when reading authentic literary texts.
 - e. Comprehend the basic content of written materials (websites, advertisements, newspaper etc.)
 - f. Begin to make informed hypotheses about the meaning of unfamiliar passages.
 - g. Sustain listening comprehension by relying on verbal and nonverbal cues, such as circumlocution.
- 3. Present information, concepts and ideas in another language in a way that is understood.**
 - a. Make brief presentations to the class on topics of interest.
 - b. Prepare audio or visual messages on topics of interest.
 - c. Present short plays and skits, recite poems and perform songs.
 - d. Summarize the plot in selected readings.
 - e. Write notes and letters to peers in the target culture.
 - f. Prepare a diary of their daily activities.
 - g. Effectively use repetition, rephrasing and gestures to assist them in communicating.
- 4. Use an understanding of culture to communicate and function appropriately in another culture.**
 - a. Identify authentic products and discuss their significance.
 - b. Identify expressive forms of the target culture and describe their significance.
 - c. Participate in age-appropriate cultural activities.
 - d. Use appropriate verbal and nonverbal behavior that includes adult interaction.
 - e. Observe, identify and discuss patterns of behavior indicative of the target culture.
 - f. Identify, discuss and analyze themes related to practices and products being studied in the target culture.

- 5. Use an understanding of another language and culture to reinforce and expand their knowledge of other disciplines and vice versa.**
 - a. Acquire information from a variety of other subjects that integrate into the world language classroom and compare and contrast the similarities and differences.
 - b. Use new information and critical thinking to expand personal knowledge.
- 6. Use an understanding of another language and culture to broaden and deepen their understanding of that language and culture.**
 - a. Use multiple media resources to expand knowledge.
 - b. Develop the necessary skills to use the Internet.
- 7. Demonstrate an understanding of the similarities, differences, and interactions across languages.**
 - a. Understand how idiomatic expressions reflect culture.
 - b. Access a wide variety of print resources.
 - c. Use oral and written language to construct stories.
 - d. Expand comprehension strategies to predict outcomes.
 - e. Produce coherent and accurate written work for a variety of purposes.
- 8. Demonstrate an understanding of the similarities, differences, and interactions across cultures.**
 - a. Compare and contrast art forms.
 - b. Investigate and report on cultural traditions.
 - c. Solicit peers' opinions on aspects of culture.
 - d. Use perspectives to compare and contrast their experiences with others.
 - e. Use new information to identify universals of human experiences across cultures.
 - f. Demonstrate empathy and respect for the people(s) of other cultures.
- 9. Use knowledge of language and culture to enrich their life and broaden their opportunities.**
 - a. Discuss families, school experiences, current events etc. in the target language.
 - b. Interact with members of the local community in the target language.
 - c. Demonstrate their language skills while involved in community activities.
 - d. Review media from the target culture for enjoyment.
 - e. Consult various sources in the target language for personal interest.
 - f. Demonstrate self-knowledge of others in areas of common interest.