

GRCHS WORLD LANGUAGE CHOICES

(2014 – 2015)

<p><i>Why consider French?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In addition to being a beautiful spoken language, French is an official language in the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Europe. 2. French is an official language for the United Nations and many other international organizations and businesses. 3. French is important in advanced studies of art, philosophy, music, history, literature, and many other disciplines. 4. A trip to France is offered at least twice during your four years at GRCHS. We travel for ten days around our spring break. 5. Those who aspire to mission work in Africa or some parts of Asia need to know French. 	<p><i>Why consider German?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GRCHS has had a true exchange program with a school in Germany since 1993. GRCHS Students host a partner in the fall and are hosted by their partners in June. This is the most in-depth and most affordable first step into international travel and culture. The exchange is offered every other year, 2014-2015 or 2016-2017. 2. German is very important in the areas of engineering, music, science/technology, banking, and international business. 3. German is surprisingly similar to English in both vocabulary and grammar. 4. German is very straightforward and logical. If you like step-by-step ordered and logical thinking, German will suit you well.
<p><i>Why consider Latin?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Latin can help you learn about English. Over 50% of the words you speak every day have a Latin or Greek root. 2. Studying Latin will enhance your vocabulary and understanding of the shades of meaning with which English is so rich. 3. Latin is rich with ancient poetry, literature, and documents of religious interest. The Roman Catholic Church conducted Mass in Latin until 1962. 4. Many legal terms are still expressed in Latin. Students intent on a career in law should consider Latin. 5. Students whose strengths and interests lie in highly analytical areas will enjoy the approach to the study of Latin, since it is studied analytically rather than communicatively. 	<p><i>Why consider Spanish?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spanish is the second language of the United States. 2. Those who work in the US in many professions, including medicine, social work, and service careers, have tremendous opportunities if they are fluent in Spanish. 3. Churches that have an outreach in Hispanic neighborhoods will be more effective if they can communicate in Spanish. 4. Those who desire to demonstrate and articulate their Christian faith in some kind of mission experience in some areas of the US or to Mexico, Central, and South America need to know Spanish. 5. A trip to a Spanish-speaking country will be offered at least twice during your four years at GRCHS
<p><i>Why consider Mandarin Chinese?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In many ways, Mandarin Chinese is much easier to learn than European languages. Mandarin has a relatively uncomplicated grammar. Unlike French, German or English, Mandarin has no verb conjugation, no plurals, no subject/verb agreement and no tenses? On top of that the basic word order of Chinese is subject — verb — object, exactly as in English. 2. Mandarin Chinese is the most widely-spoken language in the world. Currently Mandarin is spoken by over 1 billion people around the world. That means that about one out of every 5 people on the planet speaks Mandarin! 3. China is the second largest economy in the world and it is one of the largest trading partners of the United States. Those who know Chinese will be valuable to business as many US companies have long term investments in China. It is much easier to develop all-important relationships if you can speak Mandarin. Mandarin Chinese is also spoken in the important and influential Chinese communities of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Mongolia. 4. China is one of the world's oldest and richest continuous cultures, over 5000 years old. With thousands of years of history, Chinese culture is endlessly fascinating. A knowledge of Mandarin will enrich your understanding of Chinese culture. 5. Each year more and more students around the world whose mother tongue is not Mandarin are studying it with enthusiasm and success. <i>If they all can learn it, so can you!</i> 	

What incoming 9th graders and their parents need to know about *World Language Study* at GRCHS:

1. **We teach all languages from the perspective that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.** Thus, we recognize that His kingdom spans the globe. As His servants, it is our duty to "prepare students for two related callings: to be a blessing as a stranger in a foreign land, and to be hospitable to strangers in their own homeland." (The Gift of the Stranger, Smith and Carvill, 2000). Therefore, whether we are traveling abroad or whether we here encounter those whose first language is not English, we seek to be the salt and light that Jesus told us we are.
2. **No one language is easier to learn than any other.** While one doesn't have to be super intelligent to learn a second language, one does have to be disciplined and be ready to work on language study consistently inside the classroom and at home. Those who come with some experience in a language must be prepared to do this work as well as those who come knowing next to nothing.
3. **No one language is any more difficult learn than any other.** Although the myth is perpetuated that a given language may be more difficult than others, all the languages we offer have European roots, as does English. Thus, learners will see similarities and differences to English in all of these languages. Those who approach their language study with a willingness to participate in class, meet the requirements for homework and test preparation outside of class, and seek out the help of the instructor when anything is unclear will succeed in language study.
4. **For the class of 2012 and following, the state of Michigan requires two years of world language in high school.** The two years must be completed in the same language.
5. **For those who are college bound, the earlier you begin your study, the better.** Nearly every four-year college and university has a world language requirement, and incoming students are placed into courses after taking a placement test. Students who have three or four years of high school language instruction generally place higher than those with only two, usually reducing the college requirement and, in some cases, eliminating it altogether. For those who want to major or minor in a language in college, optimizing the opportunities in high school is a must.
6. **We offer students the opportunity to interact with native speakers and experience the culture of the languages you learn.** Spanish and French offer summer or spring break trips. GAPP is the exchange program with school in Germany. For details on any of these programs, contact the instructors.