

Foreign Language Placement Criteria for Transition from 8th to 9th Grade

Students in the 8th grade at Concord Middle School have many options for language study at the high school level. Students can continue with the language they began in middle school, or can begin a new language. The language offerings at Concord Carlisle High School include: French, Latin, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Beginning French and Mandarin Chinese classes are dependent on enrollment.

For students who decide to continue with the language they started at the middle school, there are different options. For French and Spanish, students can continue with French/Spanish 2 Honors or French/Spanish 2. For students who continue with Mandarin Chinese, the only option is Chinese 2. The 8th grade Concord Middle School Foreign Language teachers base their recommendations on the student's performance in the class in the four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing). In French and Spanish there is also a comprehensive placement exam which assesses listening, reading and writing skills. A student's performance on this test is factored in to the recommendation for the honors class.

The 8th grade language teachers put careful thought into this recommended placement and consider the following criteria:

French/Mandarin Chinese/Spanish 1- is for students who have experienced gaps in their learning or who wish to start a different language. This is a review of the current program consolidated into one year.

- student has inconsistent work and study habits
- student uses primarily English to communicate with the language teacher, quickly switches to English in paired and group activities and speaks with many mispronunciations and much hesitation
- student writes with incorrect structures and occasionally writes in English
- student can read isolated words/characters but cannot understand sentences and paragraphs
- student can recognize isolated words/characters but cannot understand complete sentences spoken in the foreign language
- student has tests grades consistently below 79
- student scored in the below average range of the placement exam (French and Spanish only)

French/Mandarin Chinese/Spanish 2- is a continuation of the current CMS program, it is a well-paced program with some review.

- student has good work and study habits
- student sometimes makes an effort to communicate with the teacher in the target language and sometimes uses it in paired and group activities with some hesitation and mispronunciation
- student writes with inconsistent use of grammatical elements and spellings
- student can understand reading passages with known vocabulary
- student can sometimes understand the spoken foreign language
- has consistent test scores of between 80 and 90
- student scored in the average range on the placement exam (French and Spanish only)

French/Spanish 2 Honors- is a continuation of the current CMS program, it is a faster based program with little review.

- student is an independent learner
- student consistently makes an effort to communicate with the teacher in the target language and often uses it in paired and group activities with proper pronunciation and little hesitation
- student writes using correct grammatical elements and spelling
- when given a reading passage, the student can read for the main idea and isolated information without knowing every word
- student can usually understand the spoken foreign language
- student has consistent test scores of 90+
- student scored in the advanced level of the placement exam (French and Spanish only)

All courses at CCHS focus on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.