



In a globalized society, multilingualism prepares students for future professions, enriches their connection with cultural heritage, and enhances their social experiences.

In Southington, grade 7 middle school students who take a World Language can choose between French and Spanish. Students study the language during grades 7 and 8. Upon successful completion of grade 8, students continue to the second year of study at Southington High School (i.e. French 2 or Spanish 2) or have the option of switching languages to one of the five offered at the high school (French, Italian, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish).

There are many things to consider when choosing a language to study. Here are some facts about French and Spanish to consider:

French is spoken in 33 different nations as the official or one of the official languages. Spanish is spoken in 25 different nations as the official or one of the official languages.

Our neighboring countries and trade partners – Mexico to the south and Canada to the north – speak French and Spanish.

French is the 3rd most important language for business after English and Chinese, according to Bloomberg rankings.

Currently, an estimated 450 million people worldwide speak Spanish, making it the 2nd most spoken language in the world.

France has the world's 7th largest economy. Connecticut exported over \$1 billion to each of its top four trade (France, Germany, Canada, & UK) partners in 2018, with over \$3.17 billion directed to France.

By 2050, an estimated 30% of the US population will be of Hispanic origin.

By 2050, the Natixis report indicated that French will be spoken by 750 million people in 2050.

Latin American countries are our most important trading partners so learning Spanish helps with communicating with them.

French is the language of diplomacy (along with English).

The Peace Corps is always looking for French & Spanish speakers.

Studying a World Language will not only increase appreciation of different cultures & build your intercultural competency skills, but will also expand future job opportunities & support English language learning.

If your student already speaks Spanish or French at home, it is strongly recommended that they learn a new language at school. However, if your family feels strongly about continuing your heritage language, your student must be appropriately placed. This will include a placement interview and may result in your student attending class with older students or even taking their language class at SHS while in middle school. Please contact your student's school counselor or one of the language teachers for more information if this applies to your student.

Si votre élève parle déjà l'espagnol ou le français à la maison, il est fortement recommandé qu'il apprenne une nouvelle langue à l'école. Cependant, si votre famille tient à continuer votre langue d'origine, votre élève doit être placé de manière appropriée. Cela comprendra un entretien de placement et peut amener votre élève à suivre des cours avec des élèves plus âgés ou même à suivre son cours de langue à SHS pendant ses études intermédiaires. Veuillez contacter le conseiller scolaire de votre élève ou l'un des professeurs de langue pour plus d'informations si cela s'applique à votre élève.

Si su estudiante ya habla español o francés en casa, se recomienda enfáticamente que aprenda un nuevo idioma en la escuela. Sin embargo, si su familia está firmemente convencida de continuar con su idioma de herencia, su estudiante debe ser colocado apropiadamente. Esto incluirá una entrevista de ubicación y puede resultar en que su estudiante asista a clases con estudiantes mayores o incluso que tome su clase de idioma en SHS mientras está en la escuela intermedia. Comuníquese con el consejero escolar de su hijo o con una de las profesoras de idiomas para obtener más información si esto se aplica a su hijo.