

# WORLD LANGUAGES AT TJ

## Welcome To the World Language Program at TJ! Congratulations on being admitted to TJHSST!

Here at TJ we want to help all our students achieve a **high level of competency** in the language so that they may use it successfully in their professional and personal life. Our **intense immersion** program for the modern spoken languages and a **rigorous** Latin program promote **engaging, vibrant, student-centered** classes that provide many opportunities for students to become proficient in their chosen language.

The **language requirement** in our school is a **minimum of three years** of study of the **same language** in any of the **seven** languages we offer: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish. However, **most students take an additional one or two years of instruction** in the language of their choice. Some take two languages, including advanced placement (**AP**). Colleges prefer to see students gain proficiency in their language through level 4 or 5. Students should not stop at the bare minimum of 3 years unless they are really struggling in the language. This is especially true if they finish level 3 after 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade!

**Freshmen who wish to begin a new language** at TJ will have their choice among Spanish I, Chinese I, French 1, German I, Japanese I, Latin I, and Russian I. You can learn more about those languages by speaking to the respective teachers when you come to TJ to register in April. Should you have a question or concern regarding our foreign language curriculum, please speak with the Division Manager, Ms. Margaret Gendive at the April Freshmen Registration or e-mail her. [Margaret.Gendive@fcps.edu](mailto:Margaret.Gendive@fcps.edu)

**READINESS ASSESSMENTS** (Strongly recommended for all students who plan to **register for Level 2** of a modern spoken language.)

- Since all world language classes at TJ are taught at the **honors level with STEM related extensions**, and TJ students come from a wide variety of schools and programs, we have created a **Readiness Assessment** for most languages to **help students get off to the best possible start** here at TJ.
- **Tests results** will be made available to students by July 30.
- Meanwhile, students **who have previously completed level 1 should register for Level 2** unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the test results indicate a change in schedule, those changes will be made in early August.

## READINESS ASSESSMENTS FOR WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSES

The readiness assessments **vary by language** so please read carefully the following instructions corresponding to your language of choice. (Students who fail to complete the assessment as required will have to miss class to take it the first week of school. Students who have taken the exam in June should receive notification by 7/30 **if there is a need to change their schedule by enrolling in a different level.**)

### Chinese

- All rising freshmen wishing to enroll in Chinese 2 , are required to come to TJ to take a writing assessment. **June dates will be announced in May.** In addition, ALL Freshmen must take the on-line assessment in listening, reading, grammar and speaking on Blackboard between the dates of **June 1 and June 16** at midnight.
- Rising freshmen wishing to enroll in Chinese 3 should schedule a personal interview and/or a placement assessment with the Lead Chinese teacher, Maggie Xu.
- Contact person: Maggie Xu at [QXu1@fcps.edu](mailto:QXu1@fcps.edu) .

### French

- All rising freshmen wishing to enroll in French 2 , are required to take the readiness assessment at TJ. **June dates will be announced in May.**
- Rising freshmen wishing to enroll in French 3 are required to take the readiness assessment at TJ. **June dates will be announced in May.** If you have questions, e-mail: [cvandekampwa@fcps.edu](mailto:cvandekampwa@fcps.edu)

### German

- Rising freshmen with an official German 1 credit from middle school can enroll in German 2.
- Rising freshmen wishing to enroll in German 3 must take a readiness assessment by making an appointment with Szilvia Oszko **for no later than June 19**. E-mail: [soszko@fcps.edu](mailto:soszko@fcps.edu)

### Japanese

- Rising freshmen with FCPS language credits can proceed to their respective language courses.
- Rising freshman with no FCPS language credits are required take the readiness assessment for level 2 or 3.
- Contact Mr. Otani ([koji.otani@fcps.edu](mailto:koji.otani@fcps.edu)) **before June 19** to make an appointment for the testing.

### Latin

- Rising freshmen wishing to enroll in Latin 2 do **NOT** need to take a readiness assessment under normal circumstances. However, the student **MUST** have a full year of credit in order to enroll in Latin 2. The beginning of Latin 2 will include a review of Latin 1 material. Please email Patricia Lister if you have special concerns (i.e. having a substitute for the majority of the past year): [phlister@fcps.edu](mailto:phlister@fcps.edu) .
- Rising freshmen wishing to enroll in Latin 3 **MUST** contact the Latin teacher before enrolling in the class. A readiness assessment also must be taken by the student. Please make an appointment with Christine Conklin **before June 25**. Email: [clconklin@fcps.edu](mailto:clconklin@fcps.edu) .

### Russian

- Rising Freshmen wishing to enroll in Russian 2 or 3 must take a readiness assessment by making an appointment with Betsy Sandstrom **before June 19**. E-mail: [ecsandstrom@fcps.edu](mailto:ecsandstrom@fcps.edu)

### Spanish

- **All** rising freshmen wishing to enroll in Spanish 2 , must take the readiness assessment at TJ. **June dates will be announced in May.**

- Rising freshmen who have official credits for level 1 and 2 and or have outside experience in the language and wish to enroll in Spanish 3 or Spanish 4, **must take a readiness assessment** at TJ. June dates will be announced in May. E-mail Peggy Gendive at [magendive@fcps.edu](mailto:magendive@fcps.edu) if you have concerns.

## **Suggestions for summer skill building for Modern Spoken World Languages**

- All modern world language classes at TJ are taught with **an immersion approach**. Therefore it is helpful if incoming students spend some time in the summer developing their skills. We offer the following suggestions **for improving oral communication skills**:
  1. Use the practices on the web site that are provided by your language.
  2. Practice speaking about the themes you have studied with a fluent speaker on a regular basis.
  3. Watch familiar movies/videos changing the language to the one you are studying.
  4. Try to speak a little every day in your chosen language.
  5. Use the Internet to watch the news in the language.
  6. Go to "YouTube" or "Google" and search for interesting video clips to listen to.
  7. Play games with friends or family in the language.
  8. Have fun with the language! Language is a part of our life and our relationships. Communicate whenever and wherever with whomever you can!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Division Manager, Margaret Gendive, [Margaret.Gendive@fcps.edu](mailto:Margaret.Gendive@fcps.edu)

**All of the World Language teachers wish that you have a wonderful four years at TJ, studying languages throughout those years!**