



High School Languages Course Descriptions 2024 – 2025

Introduction:

These courses represent the totality of offerings at the Einstein School. Their inclusion does not mean they are offered every year; many are based on student interest and/or minimum enrollment in the class. Contact us if you have a question regarding the availability of particular classes.

Courses that can be taken with an Honors option are denoted with an “H” after the course name. Courses marked with “HW” indicate that the class is automatically taught at Honors level with no opt-out option. Honors level courses are scored on a 5.0 GPA scale; others are on a 4.0 scale.

American Sign Language (ASL) I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

ASL I is the introductory level for students who have little or no background in the language. Students focus on basic grammar structure and vocabulary related to our daily activities, games, signing, and receptive skills (understanding other people signing) while learning about Deaf culture and the Deaf community. Students will grow in their proficiency of both skills as they master the language.

ASL II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: ASL I

ASL II is the intermediate level for this language and requires one year of experience. Students focus on advanced/automatic-translation-level understanding of grammar structure of the language and more advanced vocabulary related to our daily activities, games, signing, and

receptive skills (understanding other people signing) while learning more about Deaf culture and the Deaf community.

ASL III (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: ASL II

ASL III is an advanced level for students who have two years of experience in ASL. Students focus on advanced/automatic-translation-level understanding of grammar structure of the language and more advanced vocabulary related to our daily activities, games, signing, and receptive skills (understanding other people signing) while learning more about Deaf culture and the Deaf community. The students will continue to grow in their proficiency of both skills while they become faster and clear signers.

ASL IV (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: ASL III

ASL IV is the advanced level for students who have three years of experience in ASL. Students gain a very advanced level understanding of grammar structure of the language and very advanced vocabulary related to our daily activities, games, signing, and receptive skills (understanding other people signing) while learning more about Deaf culture and the Deaf community. The students will continue to grow in their proficiency of both skills while they become faster and clear signers.

French I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

French I introduce students to the language and culture of the French-speaking world. This course emphasizes beginning grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, correct pronunciation, and the linguistic conventions of etiquette. Students also learn about French culture and history.

French II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: French I

French II students expand their vocabulary and communicate increasingly complex ideas. Students practice written expression, grammatical construction, and linguistic comprehension. To deepen their understanding of Francophone cultures, students explore their customs, history, and art forms.

French III (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: French II

French III maximizes student fluency in reading, speaking, and listening comprehension. In this course, students study French-speaking culture, history, and literature as a basis for practicing analytical and critical writing and are guided through an in-depth study of current events affecting Francophone countries.

Conversational French

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: French I

This is a course designed to develop practical conversational French skills. The goal of this course is to enable the student to communicate effectively in French. The focus is on the development of listening and speaking skills.

German I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

German I introduce students to the cultural perspectives and practices of the German-speaking world. Students explore topics related to school and student life as they develop elementary writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills.

German II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: German I

Students in German II become increasingly proficient as they continue to learn about the German language and culture. Students gain confidence as they learn real-world vocabulary and become familiar with the cultural perspectives and practices of the German-speaking world.

German III (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: German II

German III introduces students to content-based, thematic learning related to real-life topics and concerns. Students in this course continue to develop their reading, writing, listening, and

speaking abilities and become conversationally adept as they expand their vocabulary and increase the complexity of the ideas they can express.

Conversational German

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: German I

This is a course designed to develop practical conversational German skills. The goal of this course is to enable the student to communicate effectively in German. The focus is on the development of listening and speaking skills, rather than reading and writing.

Japanese I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course exposes students to the arts, literature, customs, language, and history of Japanese-speaking people. Students learn basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that they begin to read, write, speak, and understand the language.

Japanese II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Japanese I

Students in Japanese II broaden their vocabulary, learn how to converse in informative and social settings, and deepen their understanding of sentence construction and grammatical rules. Students continue to learn about the rich culture and history of Japanese-speaking people.

Japanese III (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Japanese II

This course further advances a student's ability to read, write, speak, and understand the Japanese language. Students in Japanese III maintain simple conversations using appropriate vocabulary with an acceptable accent, understand uncomplicated literature, and write narratives that indicate solid grammatical understanding.

Conversational Japanese

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Japanese I

This is a course designed to develop practical conversational Japanese skills. The goal of this course is to enable the student to communicate effectively in Japanese. The focus is on the development of listening and speaking skills.

Japanese IV – Introduction to Japanese Culture and Language (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Japanese III

This course develops even higher-level student proficiency. Students will engage in conversations, present information to an audience, and interpret culturally authentic materials in the target language. Students will also use the language to connect with other content areas, to make comparisons with their own language and culture, and to participate in communities beyond the classroom.

History of Japanese (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Japanese I

This course is an overview of key themes in modern and contemporary Japanese history with an emphasis on the period from the seventeenth to twenty-first centuries. The course concentrates on themes of change and continuity in Japan's political systems, social and economic institutions, and cultural forms. Specific themes include changing notions of samurai identity, the rise of the modern nation-state, imperialism and interregional relations, postwar prosperity, and Japan's "Lost Decade."

Latin I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course teaches students to comprehend written Latin as they study the language, history, and culture of the ancient Romans. Students expand their knowledge of English by studying Latin word derivations and elements, syntax and grammatical forms, and translation.

Latin II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin I

Students in this class enrich their knowledge of literature, history, philosophy, theology, and art through the reading and study of Latin. Students practice basic elements of composition and learn Latin word roots for many of the prefixes and suffixes found in modern English.

Latin III (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin II

This course challenges students to read prose and poetry from ancient Rome. As students encounter different genres, they learn complex aspects of Latin grammar. Students engage in a variety of assessments that allow them the opportunity to demonstrate their developing knowledge.

Spanish I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Spanish I is the introductory level for students who have very little or no background in Spanish. Students focus on basic grammar structures as well as vocabulary dealing with daily activities, cultural experiences, and differences in the Spanish-speaking world. Listening and speaking skills are developed using interactive text, audio activities, and dialogue. Students begin to develop the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Using the target language as much as possible, the students develop verbal and written proficiency with the goal of mastering the language.

Spanish II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Students in Spanish II continue to explore the customs, history, and art forms of Spanish-speaking people as they deepen their understanding of the culture. Students improve their vocabulary, engage in informative and social scenarios, and increase comprehension of the grammatical rules governing the written and spoken language.

Spanish III (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish II

Spanish III introduces students to current events and topics of concern to the Spanish-speaking world. Students become proficient in speaking and listening as they engage in thoughtful class discussion and enhance their comprehension as they read and write about increasingly complex material.

Conversational Spanish

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course is designed to develop practical conversational Spanish skills. The goal of this course is to enable the students to communicate effectively in Spanish. The focus is on the development of listening and speaking skills.

Spanish IV (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish III

Spanish IV builds upon the achievements of Spanish III. This course is designed to take the student's fluency to a more advanced level of oral and written expression. This course focuses on the geography, culture, and history of Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and introduces the students to the Hispanic culture in the United States. This course also explores culture related to films, music, art, history, and current events from the Hispanic world.

Spanish V Spanish Literature – (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish IV

Spanish V Literature is equivalent to a college-level course of literature written in Spanish. Students continue to develop their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in Spanish language as well as critical reading and analytical writing as they explore short stories, novels, plays, essays, and poetry from Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Hispanic authors.