

High School Languages Course Descriptions 2024–25

Introduction:

These courses represent the totality of Foreign Language 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 for students with little to 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.

ASL II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: ASL I

In ASL II, 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 has 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 IV (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: ASL III

ASL IV students gain a highly 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.

French I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

French I introduces 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. Students explore the customs, history, and art forms of Francophone cultures.

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 course helps students develop practical conversational French skills. The student learns everyday phrases, greetings, and situational phrases to understand and respond to native French speakers in a conversational manner.

German I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

German I introduces 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 course helps students develop practical conversational German skills. The student learns everyday phrases, greetings, and situational phrases to understand and respond to native German speakers in a conversational manner.

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 course helps students develop practical conversational Japanese skills. The student learns everyday phrases, greetings, and situational phrases to understand and respond to native Japanese speakers in a conversational manner.

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, make comparisons with their own language and culture, and participate in communities beyond the classroom.

History of Japan (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 politics, institutions, and culture. 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 through the language, history, and culture of the ancient Romans. Students expand their knowledge of English by studying Latin word derivations and elements, syntax, 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 various assessments that allow them to demonstrate their developing knowledge.

Spanish I

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Spanish I students focus on basic grammar and the vocabulary of daily activities and cultural experiences. Students develop the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Using Spanish as much as possible, students develop proficiency.

Spanish II

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Students 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

Students learn about current events and topics of concern to the Spanish-speaking world. Students 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

Students advance their fluency through 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 films, music, art, history, and current events from the Hispanic world.

Spanish V – Spanish Literature (HW)

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish IV

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