

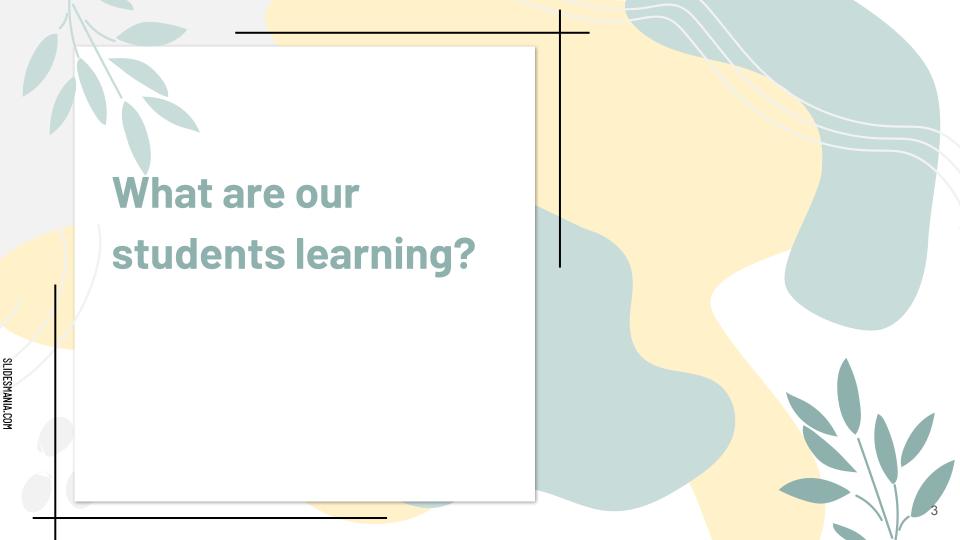
November 17, 2025

To access the videos within the slides, please click here.



Mission: Preparing learners to engage in our global community through language and cultural competency. Vision: Ensure that our classroom environment is safe and equitable for ALL students. Deliver curriculum that offers various global perspectives. Create an engaging and supportive learning environment. Promote a love of learning about other cultures and nuances of language. Employ best practice as a world language team. Offer an academically rigorous program that also is mindful of different learning needs of students. Values: The Waunakee World Language Department values and is committed to: Ongoing collaboration A well-articulated K-12 curriculum Continuous reflection Clear communication High expectations for all Respect for diverse perspectives and experiences

Encouragement and appreciation



K-5	All students take Spanish (K-3 is social studies content-based curriculum, 4-5 is content-related)						
6th grade		take Spanish emester	All students take Introductory French for 1 semester				
7th grade	Introductory Spanish (for students new to Spanish 1)	Continuing Spanish (a continuation of Spanish 1)	French 1 (1st semester of French 1)	Chinese 1 (1st semester of Chinese 1)			
8th grade	Continuing Spanish	Spanish 2	French 1 (2nd semester of French 1)	Chinese 1 (2nd semester of Chinese 1)			
9th grade***	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	French 2	Chinese 2			
10th grade	Spanish 3	Spanish 4	French 3	Chinese 3			
11th grade	Spanish 4	Spanish 5 (CAPP)	French 4	Chinese 4			
12th grade	Spanish 5 (CAPP)	Spanish 6 (CAPP)	French 5 (CAPP)	Chinese 5			
Students new to a language, may begin in level 1 at any point during their high school career ***Spanish Language Arts is offered as two separate courses with a two year curriculum cycle.							

SLA 1 is open to 9-10 grade students SLA 2 is open to 11-12 grade students

Description of ACTFL levels

Novice Low:

Speak in lists and memorized phrases

K-4 Sp

Novice Mid

Speak in lists and memorized phrases, 25-50 words, No language creation, Introduce self and others

5th/6th Sp, Intro, Continuing Fr 7/8, Ch 7/8, Sp/Fr/Ch 1

Novice High

Speak in phrases, Limited to memorized chunks, Ask and answer simple questions

Sp 2, Fr 2, Ch 2

Intermediate Low:

Speak in lists and memorized phrases, Simple conversations about common topics

Sp 3, Fr 3, Ch 3

Intermediate Mid:

Create language with some memorized phrases, topics related to self, create and respond to information questions

Sp 4 / 5, Fr 4 / 5, Ch 4 / 5

Intermediate High:

Use language to do multi-step task, Handle a complication, Present opinion with reason and support, Speak in present, past and future with errors

Sp 6

Advanced Low:

Formal and informal conversation, Narrate and describe in paragraphs, circumlocute occasionally, some speech hesitant and irregular, Narrate present, past, and future with infrequent errors $SL\Lambda 1/2^*$

Advanced Mid:

Narrate in present, past, and future with limited errors, Speak well on concrete and familiar topics, Handle unanticipated language

Advanced High:

Speak with ease on a variety of topics, Hesitant with abstract topics, Speak very well on concrete topics, Paraphrase and circumlocute with ease

What are we trying to develop? Proficiency

Proficiency describes an individual's ability to use the language:

- to "accomplish communication objectives"
- in "all types of situations"
- · on "topics that may or may not be familiar"
- · in "contexts that may or may not have been encountered previously"

Proficiency refers to what an individual is able to do regardless of the setting, or where, when and how the language was learned.

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (2024, p. 6)

Accuracy = in a manner acceptable and appropriate to those who use the language in their home, school, community, and work



Student Placement (new to district) and Advancement

We work closely with Pathways to determine advancement or placement of new students. We use both the AAPPL and a writing sample to determine the best level for students.

ACTFL PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES	ACTFL AAPPL PERFORMANCE PERFORMANCE SCALE SCORE		FORM		
Advanced Low	Advanced	A-1			
Intermediate High		I-5			
Intermediate Mid		1-4		В	
Intermediate Mid	Intermediate	I-3			
Intermediate Mid	Intermediate	1-2			
Intermediate Low		I-1	A and		
Novice High		N-4	E		
Novice Mid	Novice	N-3			
Novice Mid		N-2			
Novice Low		N-1			

World Language Department - Elementary Team

Samantha Pilsner, PES





Gina Pagel, AES



Morgan Wiegel, HES & PES



Hailee Hamer, HES

Our Elementary World Language Program is approaching the 20 year mark!

- → We integrate social studies standards and content into Kindergarten—3rd grade Spanish class. Beginning in 4th grade, Spanish class topics expand beyond SS and grade level teachers teach/assess SS knowledge & skills.
- → All students receive 30 minutes of Spanish instruction three times in each six day rotation. Each also has a focus country that highlights the diversity of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries.
 - Kindergarten, students learn about Cuba
 - first grade, students explore Honduras & Central America
 - second grade, students learn about Mexico
 - third grade, students focus on Spain
 - fourth grade, students learn about Peru in South America

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<u>Units taught</u>: New curriculum built over the summer.

Collaboration with Paul Sandrock.

- Greetings, Introductions & Expressing Feelings
- School Materials and Classroom Phrases
- 5 Senses of our Body
- Fall is 1 of 4 Seasons in WI
- Calendar (days of the week, months, seasons)
- Global Celebrations & Culture
- Communities: Places & Jobs
- Winter
- Family/ Needs & Wants
- Rules, Laws & National Symbols
- Spring
- Maps & Gobes
- Summer





2nd: Introduction to Mexico

- Timelines of Independence
- Day of the dead
- Rights, responsibilities, leaders
- World Address
- Diversity among us, adj
- Biographies: Spanish-speaking leaders

3rd: Introduction to Spain

- Celebrations in Spain
- Purpose, Parts, Types of maps
- Continents, Latitude & longitude
- Branches/Levels of government
- Goods/Services, Producers/Consumers

4th: Introduction to Peru (routines)

- Food, Market, Currency in Peru
- Leaders & Symbols of Peru
- Geography of Peru & the world
- History of Peru



World Language Department - Intermediate Team







Claudia Bright - French

Melanie Graaskamp - Spanish

Caitlin Smith - Spanish

6th grade French

6th Grade students are exploring age related culture such as the "escargot" hopscotch game as well as discussing and enjoying bûche de noël. They are also engaging in collaborative writing.



5-6 Spanish

In 5th grade Spanish, students are spiraling from elementary in how to independently introduce themselves via interpersonal spoken conversations.

In 6th grade Spanish, students are developing presentational pre-writing skills. Pictures show students describing their food preferences as they walk around the class "grocery store!"



World Language Department - Middle School Team











Spanish Teachers: Ellen Willrett & Karen McDonough

French Teachers:
Claudia Bright* & Beth Stachour*

Mandarin Chinese:
Rosy Zhu*

7-8 French

In 7th & 8th Grade students are learning to express themselves and give their opinions in French. They engage in French in fun and collaborative ways. Their global perspective is expanding as they learn about francophone cultures around the world!



7-8 Spanish

Intro, Continuing and Spanish II-Within the Spanish program at WMS, students are learning to express themselves starting with basic conversations and expanding to more complex topics. They practice reading, writing, listening and speaking in Spanish. We explore cultural traditions and practices.









World Language Department - High School **Team**

















Spanish Teachers:

Kristin Bastidas, Tiffany Simandl, Rachel Burkard, Catie Anderson, Elaine Simmons, & Jennifer Balcázar

French Teachers:

Alissa Bratz, Shari Thompson, & Beth Stachour

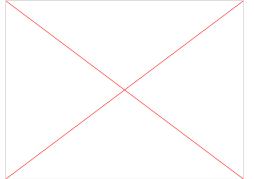
Mandarin Chinese: Rosy Zhu

9-12

In High School Spanish classes students begin to explore culture that goes beyond the superficial knowledge of a country. We delve into history, current events, and popular culture such as art and film while refining grammar and vocabulary.











9-12

In High School French students expand their knowledge and communication skills in French. They continue to learn about the francophone world, listen to French music, and learn about French history.



7-8, 9-12 Mandarin Chinese

Mandarin Chinese is the official language in Mainland China. In Chinese courses, students learn Chinese characters and **standard** Mandarin Chinese **pronunciation** and they engage in activities to help them learn more about the Chinese culture!







Chinese 2
Making Dumplings

Special project

Spanish Language Arts students participated in the AFS Global Up Joven/Teen Program for the Americas, where they earned their AFS Global Competence Certificate. As a part of this program, our native and heritage speakers of Spanish had the opportunity to be a part of a virtual exchange with a HS class from Cruz de Elorza, Mexico, taught by Srta. Keith Alanis.







AFS 2024: Intercambio Virtual Waunakee, WI (E.E.U.U.)

y TBC.Cruz de Elorza, Nuevo León (México)

Click on link here!





Manual para Participantes
Global Up Joven

We assess reading, listening, speaking, writing and, in upper levels, command of grammar concepts.

- We have developed rubrics at each level that are based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines (from previous slide)
- We grade students based on performance, which is typically higher than proficiency level

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Waunakee Community School District Committed to Children . Committed to Community . Committed to Excellence

INTERPERSONAL MODE

World Language Department
Performance Assessment Rubrics (7-12)

La identidad Unit: 1 Spanish V

\geq	Novice Low	\gg	Novice Mid	\gg	Novice High	\gg	Intermediate Low	\gg	Intermediate Mid	\gg	Intermediate High	\sum	, Advanced Low	_
	-								_		1	/ .	,	

Student Name		Class:	Score:/%		
	NM - 1	NH - 2	IL - 3	IM -4	
Complexity What language do you use?	2-3 word phrases	Phrases & simple sentences	You create 1-2 simple original sentences at a time	Series of original sentences, narration in present & past	
Vocabulary	A few memorized words & phrases; repetitive	Familiar & memorized words & phrases with some details & elaboration	Personalized vocabulary, more details & elaboration, well-used unit vocabulary	More variety of personalized vocabulary, expanded details & elaboration	
Accuracy & Comprehensibility (Grammar, Word Order, Word Choice, and Pronunciation) How distracting are your errors to your message?	Frequent errors, consistently distracting	Somewhat frequent errors, often distracting	Some errors; sometimes distracting	Minimal errors; infrequently distracting	
Interaction (Communication Strategies) How well do you contribute to the conversation?	You listen actively; you use facial expressions & gestures to communicate, give some non verbal responses, mimic, & ask for repetition at times	You maintain comfortable eye contact, give partner(s) full attention, indicate lack of understanding if needed, ask & answer simple questions, & use greetings & reaction phrases appropriately in the conversation	You self-correct, restate or rephrase when not understood, circumlocute a little, ask & answer relevant questions, & add new ideas to the conversation You respond specifically to what your group mates have said.	You use strategies to initiate, maintair & end a conversation, & you ask & answer follow-up questions to add details to the conversation You respond specifically to what your group mates have said.	
	1 Emerging - Just Starting	2 Developing - Getting There	3 Proficient - On Target	4 Advanced - WOW!	
Content How well do you complete the task?(See task description)	You do not meet the requirements &/or goals	You partially meet the requirements &/or goals	You meet the requirements & goals of the task	You meet & exceed the requirements & goals of the task	
Resources How well do you incorporate resources from class into your conversation?	You do not refer to materials covered in class.	You mention superficial references to resources used in class.	You refer to a resource or two from class in your conversation.	You refer to several resources in your conversation to use as evidence to back up your points.	



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16 University Credits

Our French V and Spanish V can earn 16 credits

5 Additional Credits

For students who continue on to Spanish VI

2189 Credits Earned

By students taking CAPP courses in 2024-2025*

*includes data for French V, Spanish V, and Spanish VI and includes retroactive credits



Reflections from former students about their World Language experience at **WCSD**



We have a handout to share with you that summarizes their responses.

I'm currently studying abroad in Spain due in no small part to my grasp of the language you helped foster in that class. The language has allowed me to connect with a people and culture in ways otherwise unimaginable. I would highly recommend it to anyone looking to understand the world, and the people in it, a bit more. Also, the college credits were incredibly useful in pursuing a bachelor of arts at UW Madison.

-lan Schroeder, Class of 2023

The credits I've earned from Spanish have got me so far along with my credit progress at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I am over halfway (credit wise) with my freshman year of college. The credits I've earned from Spanish 6 specifically have gotten me out of a few writing intensives I had to take and also got me out of any language pre requisites I needed to complete for my major. I think learning not only the language but the culture as well has helped me grow as a person by seeing cultures outside of what is told to me in bits and pieces.

-Annalyse Gile, Class of 2025

Taking Spanish all the way through Spanish 6 my senior year really set me up for success in college academically. I entered in with 24 credits coming from Spanish, 10 of these fulfilled my Humanities credits and the other 14 went towards electives. Being set ahead like this led me to be able to take 2 certificates (similar to minors), so the degree I am earning is Consumer Behavior and Marketplace Studies with certificates in Sports Communication and Entrepreneurship. Along with this being set ahead from Spanish credits is allowing me to study abroad in my upcoming spring semester!

-Morgan Meyer, Class of 2023

Taking Spanish throughout high school not only helped me physically increase my skill set and the people I am able to communicate with, but it also greatly helped to inform me on different cultures whether it's music, food, movies, or really anything from cultures I might never even got to experience. Spanish has given me a broader perspective on the world and opened my eyes to different ways of life from my own. As for credits, as a Psych major at Florida State University, my dual enrollment credit from the CAPP program from Spanish 5 and 6 were able to completely knock out my language requirement for my major and if I choose to minor in it, it would only be one or two extra classes. Tons of time and money saved!

-Emma Raemisch, Class of 2025

While taking Spanish, I learned about different cultures and got introduced to the language. The Waunakee High School Spanish program prepared me for college by providing me with a space to be challenged and to learn. More specifically, by completing the CAPP program, I satisfied all of my World Culture General Education credits at Indiana University, and I can get a head start on my degree.

-Morgan Wayne, Class of 2025

Taking Spanish 5 and 6 in high school has helped me in numerous ways. Firstly, these classes gave me 21 credits heading into college. These credits have aided me in completing my degree by providing elective credits and giving me class standing advantages for signing up for courses. Outside of college, Spanish 5 and 6 has helped me in my jobs and speaking with members of the community. With the ability to speak another language, I can speak, work, and connect with my peers and coworkers in a way that not everyone can do. I highly recommend taking these classes in high school to get you a step ahead in college and being able to communicate with others!

-Makena Sowinski, Class of 2023

The ways in which participating in both Spanish and French have impacted my life are countless. The CAPP credits enabled me to begin language classes at roughly a third-year level, which meant I could jump in far ahead of my classmates and take courses that matched my skills. Because of this, I was able to graduate in 2.5 years with majors in Spanish and Political Science and a minor in French.

Thanks to the language credits that allowed me to graduate early, I was able to start law school a year ahead of schedule—saving both time and money while accelerating my career. During law school, I served on the International Law Review, where I translated legal papers for fellow members to help advance legal scholarship. Since graduating this past May, I've continued using both Spanish and French at my law firm, which handles some immigration cases, as I am asked to translate documents in both languages.

Beyond the professional benefits, these language skills have truly made my world a bigger place. I can connect with more members of my community and understand a wider range of world events. I look forward to continuing to use these skills and know they will always serve me well.

-Alyssa Beery, Class of 2019

Taking Spanish has had a profound impact on my life, from allowing me to excel in college, to providing me with the confidence to speak to native speakers and finding my way through Mexico, Spain, and even France. The credits that I earned from taking Spanish 5 and 6 (21 I believe it was) bumped an entire semester of college off my journey, as those credits directly transferred to UW-Madison and counted toward all of my humanities credits that my engineering degree required. In fact, I think I even had some credits left over as I had surpassed the required amount for my degree. Additionally, I was allowed to come into college taking 3rd year Spanish classes.

-Adam Greiber, Class of 2019

Taking Spanish throughout my time as a Waunakee student, specifically Spanish 5 and 6, has contributed significantly to my success in college. The college credit I earned through these classes has allowed me to graduate with my undergraduate degree in Public Health one semester early, which is also allowing me to begin my Master's degree early. This would not have been possible without the elective credits I earned through Spanish 5 and 6 at Waunakee. Beyond the logistics, I will always look back fondly on my time in Spanish classes, as all of the teachers in the department put so much time, energy, creativity and effort into making it a positive and lasting experience for us.

-Ava Bryan, Class of 2022

Though not yet fluent in Spanish, I was definitely able to hold my own in many conversations with locals. Additionally, I am planning on graduating from UW-Madison after just 3 years, which was made possible largely due to the credits that I received from Spanish 5 and 6 in high school. Many others who took these classes also plan on graduating early or doing a double major, so these credits have certainly proven to be beneficial to us. Overall, I can honestly say that Spanish was always my favorite class as an upperclassman at Waunakee, and I would confidently recommend it to anyone with even the slightest interest in learning a language. -Drew Wegert, Class of 2023

This past fall, I interned in the Office of the First Lady at the White House. Throughout my job, I interacted with people all over the country and world—many of which spoke Spanish. I remember my first week there, the former President and First Lady hosted their Hispanic Heritage Month reception. Knowing Spanish is so much more than being able to communicate a few words. It's important, and I saw first-hand how special it was when it is understood and celebrated. Thanks to the amazing program and teachers at Waunakee, we are connected to an integral part of American culture.

-Quinn Bogost, Class of 2022

Taking Spanish in high school has been really valuable for me in college. I use Spanish at my job to communicate with some of my coworkers, which has helped me be more useful at work. The college credits I earned from my high school Spanish classes also filled most of my general education requirements at UW–Madison, allowing me to start my major-specific classes sooner. Studying Spanish also helped me develop an appreciation for other cultures, which has made it easier to succeed in a more diverse university environment.

-Emily Rapps, Class of 2024

I am finishing up my third year of undergrad, and will get my Bachelor's of Business Management this spring from Tarleton State University. Taking Spanish all the way to Spanish 6 was truly one of the best decisions I made in high school, and I have put my language skills to use since graduation.

Last year, I worked for a rope horse trainer in Stephenville, TX, and one of the employees spoke little to no English, which left a major barrier in communication. Before I started working there, the boss would talk into a translator, which wasted time and was often incorrect. This employee was an amazing caregiver to all of the horses on the ranch, but he felt isolated because of a language barrier. I used my Spanish to help communicate between the employee and my boss, and both were so thankful. Being able to put my Spanish to use in the real world every day at work feels like such an accomplishment and a way that I can positively impact those around me.

In addition, getting college credits while still being in high school saved me money and time, and I will be able to get my Bachelor's degree in three years instead of four. My time in your classroom has been the most influential instruction to date, and I am so grateful for my knowledge in Spanish.

-Clare Burcalow, Class of 2023

I loved taking Spanish classes in high school because you made them super engaging and fun! I learned so much that helped me feel prepared for my college Spanish courses. The credits I earned in high school also helped me get closer to completing a degree in

-Adrian Karinopoulos, Class of 2024

Spanish language.

Taking these classes was very impactful for me, in college I worked many service jobs and was able to speak with customers whose primary language is Spanish in their first language. I'm now currently studying for a doctorate degree and will be spending time in Sevilla, Spain next semester! I took some upper level Spanish writing courses in college but wasn't able to continue due to a really heavy course load for my primary degree. But I've found practicing and relearning Spanish has been very easy because of the knowledge base I have! I'm excited to put these skills to use next semester in Spain.

-Cate Beckman, Class of 2019

I currently work as a school social worker in a dual immersion elementary school. My Spanish and bilingualism has allowed me to connect with so many families and students, including our newcomer population. It has been so impactful to run socio emotional groups and connect families to resources in another language. I have grown so much in my confidence in conversational Spanish by talking with native speakers and learning from them.

With my high school credits, I was able to bypass a lot of early Spanish courses in undergrad and obtained my Spanish minor by my junior year of undergrad at UWM. The basics that I learned in high school set me up well for more advanced and conversational experiences I have had since then! My bilingual brain continues to grow and I am grateful for that.

-Grace Gengler, Class of 2018

I go to UW La Crosse and work at the YMCA in the area in the food program. One of our programs is called Mobile Market and we deliver food boxes to families in the area that need it. Many of our clients speak spanish and taking spanish 6 has helped me be able to have some basic conversations with them and communicate any updates about our program. It has made my job a lot easier and more meaningful so thank you for teaching me!

-Morgan Ripp, Class of 2023

Taking Spanish throughout high school was one of the best decisions I made. I not only got to learn a new language, but it was also a class that I found to be very fun and engaging. I feel that the mix of games, TV-Shows, and other group practice were all aspects that really helped me learn the material well throughout the semesters. Additionally, the fact that I was able to earn 21 college-level credits from Spanish 5 & 6 was a great help in my college career. Because of these courses, I am no longer required to take any further language courses in college, and have many elective credits filled from these as well. With the help of Spanish and other AP classes, I came into my Freshman year with a near Sophomore standing, significantly lightening my course load, and allowing me the freedom to take less courses in the future. Taking Spanish throughout high school was not only a great and fun learning experience, but also a great investment in my future as a college student.

-Sam Karls-Dale, Class of 2024

I had the opportunity to go to Barcelona, Spain last year with my family. I was able to use my spanish there. Especially at the Boqueria, there were people who didn't speak any English, and actually spoke catalan seeing as we were in Catalonia, and I was able to use my spanish to communicate with them and learn about new fruits and vegetables. Moreover, all throughout my trip I used my spanish every opportunity I got. Most people in Barcelona spoke English, but when we did an excursion in Mont Serrat I was able to use my spanish again to learn about historic (and still used) churches as well as different types of wine and the mountains. Lastly, Spanish has helped me in college as well particularly academically. I am minoring in Spanish with the goal of being able to communicate with spanish speakers in my future **profession.** I have made so many friends in my spanish classes and continued to enhance my learning. Being able to come in with credits has made a spanish minor extremely achievable, as I only need to take like 3 more classes.

-Charlise Smith, Class of 2024

Spanish 5 and 6 have had such an amazing impact on my college experience! Even though I am not majoring in something that requires Spanish, the CAPP credit has put me significantly ahead of others in my class meaning I have priority enrollment for courses here at UW-Madison. This is so helpful for getting into the classes I want, at the times I want, with the professors I want. I'm also planning on studying abroad and Spanish will surely help me where I plan to go!

-Kendall Haviland, Class of 2024

Working as a PA/healthcare in general, I have felt that my Spanish was super valuable. I graduated from Carroll University for my masters degree and had a clinical rotation at a free clinic where the majority of the patients spoke only Spanish. I am able to understand my Spanish speaking patients most of the time. It does allow me to build a stronger relationship with these patients since I am able to connect with them through their language and a simple understanding of their culture. This also helps guide my decision making for different treatment options. A simple greeting or acknowledgement, helps me build trust and rapport with these patients.

-Lauren Harrod, Class of 2019

Taking Spanish gave me the ability to communicate with Spanish speaking clients at my job and it also gave me enough transfer credits to graduate college early. I am so happy that I spent the time taking Spanish throughout school!

-Grace Bernards, Class of 2022

I work at Denver Health, which is a hospital that serves a very large Spanish-speaking population. While I still use professional interpreter services, since I would not classify myself as fully fluent (more conversational) and want my patients to have fluent and professional interpretation services at all times, I am able to understand most of what patients are saying and can typically communicate pretty decently. This also applies to my day-to-day life. I love being able to connect with patients of different cultures/backgrounds, and I think it is extremely beneficial to patients when healthcare workers and providers have language skillsets (again, why I would love to improve my skills to be fully fluent). In summary, Waunakee's World Language program was incredible, and the conversational Spanish that I have retained has absolutely improved connections to my patients, enhanced my critical thinking skills, and made me more marketable in my career. I am so grateful for the Spanish I learned at Waunakee and hope to one day have the time and energy needed to become fluent and be able to break down more language barriers in healthcare! -Autumn Facktor, Class of 2017

In terms of college, the credits I received for taking Spanish 5&6 allowed me to skip quite a few elective courses, putting me on a track to graduate earlier and saving a lot of money as well. I also was able to put my Spanish skills to use while traveling earlier this year. With a few friends, I traveled around Spain for 10 days. I was surprised at my ability to hold brief conversations with restaurant staff, read signs on public transit, and interact with others. It wasn't fluent, but I remembered enough to feel confident that I could find my way through a conversation if needed! It was also cool to visit a few of the sites we learned about in class.

-Nate Carter, Class of 2018

Taking Spanish in high school really helped in my higher education at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. I felt that my Spanish skills could easily be converted into an official addition to my resume, so I decided to apply for the Spanish minor. Due to the college credits as well as the vast skills and vocabulary that I acquired and reinforced over all four years of high school Spanish, I was able to test directly into the highest level of Spanish courses in college (i.e. the ones that directly applied to the minor). This saved me a lot of time (and tuition) due to not having to take the beginner Spanish courses. As a result, I was still able to graduate on time with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in both Mathematics and Spanish. Not only did my Spanish skills helped me solidify my communication skills in another language in the U.S., but they also helped me abroad! During my junior year, I elected to study abroad in Lübeck, Germany via the partnership program that the Technical University of Applied Sciences Lübeck had with MSOE. During the summer break after my studies had concluded, I wanted to travel more around Europe to gain a more worldly view. An obvious choice given my language experiences was Spain, and I also wanted to experience first-hand the culture and history that was taught to me in my Spanish classes. My language skills helped ensure smooth communication, as I was the person in the group with the most Spanish language experience, and this further enriched our experiences while there. The final example of how Spanish has helped me is in career employment. There's a company by the name of Ingeteam that I have been following very closely due to their commitments to green and renewable energy, and when I spoke with them at MSOE's career fair, they noticed my language skills on my resume and then emphasized their work in Spain and travel opportunities to such.

-Mathew Karls, Class of 2021

The classes absolutely helped me in the beginning of college, as I was able to start in fourth semester Spanish and complete my degree's language proficiency requirement in just one semester, instead of the usual four. Learning about Spain in our class was also when I started thinking about the possibility of studying abroad during college, and my second year, I made that come true. I spent the fall semester of 2022 studying in Toledo, taking all of my classes in Spanish, and it was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. Without WHS Spanish, I likely wouldn't have been able to do this program—or at least not as early in my college career as I did—because of the level of Spanish language required.

My knowledge of the Spanish language and culture, the foundation of which was formed during Spanish 5 and 6, were also influential in getting me a virtual internship with the US State Department working for the US Consulate General in Barcelona, which I did for the entirety of my final year of college. During my final year, thanks to completing my language requirement in Spanish quite early, I was able to register for a class called Portuguese for Spanish Speakers, where we used our knowledge of Spanish grammar to learn Portuguese. The lessons felt very similar to learning grammar in Spanish 5 and 6, and I'm certain the grammatical foundation that I learned at WHS helped me in that class. I passed the Portuguese proficiency test after just one semester of instruction. Besides all of that, the credits I got from UW Oshkosh helped me graduate college a year early. That's not all, though... I actually live in Spain now, and am now using the knowledge I gained every single day! I've been living in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia since September 2024, teaching English on a program called NALCAP.

-Emma Nelson, Class of 2021

I never recognized how lasting everything I learned in your Spanish classes was until I was immersed in the Spanish language. I was able to interact in my day-to-day life completely in Spanish, like at the grocery store and at a restaurant, reading a menu and ordering. My Spanish creative writing class was taught completely in Spanish, and I was able to listen to and understand my professor and classmates, as well as a few authors we got to speak with over the course of the semester. This class was one of the higher level Spanish courses the program offered, and therefore, the curriculum assumed students already had a solid grasp of grammar. Thanks to your classes, I had that foundation, and it made all the difference.

-Ebba Harrison, Class of 2019

So far, in both my work doing ABA therapy and my Adapted Fitness lab, I have used Spanish to communicate with my clients! A little rusty- but I'm able to put basic vocabulary into Spanish for my 4 year old client, and practice/learn exercise words in Spanish with my AF client! Also, the CAP credits gave me so many transfer credits so that things like enrollment times and football game ticket buying dates are earlier for me due to how many credits I have. I'm so glad Spanish has benefited me in college!

-Morgan Ableidinger, Class of 2023

Taking Spanish 5 and 6 was very helpful for me in entering college. I had received so many college credits from these classes that I was able to graduate a semester early, I could have even graduated a year early if I wanted. This was extremely helpful for me especially in regards to saving money and not having to take random classes to fulfill the credit requirements of my degree. While I never ended up pursuing a further degree in Spanish I was so grateful to have those extra credits entering into college.

I also went on a mission trip to Argentina 2 summers ago. There I was fully immersed in a Spanish a speaking culture with very little of the locals speaking English. While my Spanish was very rusty I was so grateful for all the years I spent in High school taking Spanish because it allowed me to communicate even on the most basic level. I also had a great understanding of the culture I was entering into thanks to our Spanish classes and learning about Latin American and Spanish cultures.

-Meghan Spangler, Class of 2019

In terms of learning Spanish specifically, it's supported me in many ways in my life. Not only have I been able to travel to several Spanish speaking countries recreationally, but I was able to formally translate for a group of volunteers in Guatemala. My knowledge in Spanish, which came from 10+ years of education at Waunakee, helped me connect with the families being supported by the volunteers in a way that no one else was able to.

As for how the college credits have aided me, I owe a lot of my current success to them. Because of those credits, in both Spanish specifically and general elective credits, I was able to get my Bachelors in Social Work in only 3 years. My program at UW Madison required me to complete the fourth unit of a language, and Waunakee allowed me to enter college with that already completed. My ability to complete undergrad in 3 years set me up for success in grad school, and I got my Masters in Social Work at 21 years old. I truly consider CAPP the main reason I was able to get to where I am today so quickly.

Now that I have my BSW and MSW, I am a full time licensed psychotherapist in Madison. Spanish has become even more relevant in my life since I began working in this field. I currently see a client, an English-speaking child, whose parents are much more comfortable with speaking Spanish. While they would be willing to use English to connect with me about their child's therapy, my ability to communicate with them in their preferred language strengthens the support I'm able to provide.

Spanish, and the language educators at Waunakee, have set me up for success and cultural humility for the rest of my life. Waunakee is not the most diverse place, so my first real understanding of culture and diversity came from what I learned in Spanish class. I learned many things in those classrooms, far beyond just Spanish.

-Alysa Lawrence, Class of 2021

Spanish has helped me in so many ways in my schooling after high school. First of all having Spanish credits has set me ahead of many other students at my University, these credits have helped me to accelerate my learning by taking higher level courses based off both credits and knowledge gained from class. Going into college I was not 100% sure of what I wanted to do with my Spanish knowledge. Ultimately I am using my Spanish knowledge to further my career as in education by getting a Dual Degree in Teaching English to Students of other Languages. Although English learner (EL) teachers work with a variety of students who speak many different languages having a background in Spanish has allowed me to connect to students in my struggles and successes in language learning. Spanish ≝honestly plays a bigger role in my life than l gever thought it would be, it has given me many opportunities to grow the thrive in both

-Romi Ripp, Class of 2023

≧my educational and personal life.

Spanish classes have impacted my life positively in so many ways. While in college, I was able to earn 15 or so retro credits by only taking one class. This was so helpful to me as I needed 150 credits to sit for the CPA exam, and due to these credits. I was able to obtain 150 credits in 4 years of undergrad while also pursuing D1 athletics. I also took enough classes to obtain a Spanish minor and always credit that as a differentiating factor when I was applying for jobs. I majored in accounting and finance in college with a Spanish minor and I now work as a public accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC). Within my role at PwC, I work with a team in Mexico and have worked in Milwaukee with people on secondment from our Mexico office. It has benefitted me greatly to be able to speak Spanish whether that be to communicate with colleagues or just make them feel more at **home.** Overall, taking the higher level Spanish classes in high school set me on a great path going forward. -Kate Vanderhoef. Class of 2017

The ability to take college-level Spanish classes in high school allowed me to easily obtain a Spanish minor in college, without requiring a lot of extra work outside of my major. My Spanish minor gave me the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica, where I enjoyed exploring a new culture, learning about the history of their country, trying new foods, and traveling to different cities. I loved that I was able to jump right into upper level classes in college.

Currently, I am teaching 7th grade
English at a very small, rural school
district in Wisconsin. We don't have a
large population of students that speak
Spanish as their native language, but my
background in Spanish has allowed
me to be a more effective teacher for
our few students that do go through
our classes with a language barrier.
I've had students write essays in
Spanish, and I love that I don't have to
rely on semi-accurate translations in

-Rebecca Braun, Class of 2017

order to understand them

The credits that I obtained through the CAPP program checked off several requirements in the College of Letters & Science and allowed me to pursue a double major (neurobiology as well as molecular and cell biology) while still graduating a semester early. While I did not pursue additional formal education in the language beyond my freshman year at the UW, I continued to utilize the Spanish skills that I learned at WHS in multiple professional settings. Throughout my time in Madison, I worked with Madison Emergency Physicians as a medical scribe in emergency departments across southwest Wisconsin. My ability to comprehend the Spanish language allowed me to seamlessly work with providers who were seeing Spanish-speaking patients and document effectively despite possible language barriers. More recently, I have used my skills as a medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. As a trainee, we have the opportunity to volunteer our time in the Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured which treats patients across the City of Milwaukee who otherwise would not have access to healthcare. A significant number of these patients are Spanish speaking. While required to use interpreters, I find myself able to bond more closely with my patients when I am able to still communicate effectively and demonstrate my understanding through small interactions using the language.

am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have learned so much of the Spanish language while still a high school student and credit the World Language program at WHS for providing me the opportunity to pursue the opportunities described above. I hope to continue to pull on these skills throughout the remainder of my training and throughout my career. For this reason, I would highly recommend each and every student at WHS to pursue some sort of language throughout their four years!

After high school, I took the third Spanish class at my university because your classes counted for the first and second general language classes. Additionally, I served a mission in 2021-2022 for my church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During this time, I learned Spanish through video calls for two weeks before I spent two months at the MTC (Missionary Training Center) in Mexico City with my district! In my district, I knew the most Spanish, so I spoke the most with the native workers. After that, I served in Riverside, CA, specifically with people who speak Spanish!

In closing, your classes were a big part of my adventure to learn Spanish! Although I'm not perfect, speaking Spanish increases my confidence. Spanish has allowed me to form more relationships and to communicate with native speakers. Thank you for your classes!

-Alesha Steuart, Class of 2019

The Spanish program at WHS is amazing. I was lucky enough to pursue a Spanish minor in college because of the rigor of my high school classes. I had the knowledge and comprehension to test out of the first few Spanish classes and therefore complete my minor in only a year and a half. I am now a pharmacist in the emergency department and use Spanish to communicate with my patients when needed instead of waiting for an interpreter — speeding up their care and improving their overall experience during some of the worst days of their lives.

I also had the opportunity to travel to Spain with the Spanish department prior to my senior year of high school which was truly so magical. We were able to stay with host families, be further immersed into the culture we learned about in class, eat authentic foods, and sightsee SO many beautiful places. I will never forget the coolest host mom EVER - Divi! This was my first time abroad and was a catalyst for my love of traveling and experiencing other cultures. This opportunity would not have been possible without the organization and supervision of the world language department at WHS.

I always credit more of my learning from high school than in college to my abilities of communicating in Spanish because of the foundation that was built. I am truly so lucky I had the Spanish department I did in high school and could not speak more highly of it or the people behind it.

-Olivia Carroll, Class of 2018

Taking Spanish at WHS gave me such a head-start to my college studies, and have helped me immensely in my career. I am currently a bilingual elementary speech-language pathologist at Northside Elementary in Sun Prairie, but I'll explain how I got there...I went to UW Lacrosse after high school, unsure of what I wanted to study, but all I knew is I wanted to continue Spanish. I entered college with 30-40(?) credits from Spanish 5/6 since the class was in partnership with UW Oshkosh to get college credits. This allowed me to start at 300 level classes that counted towards my degree, as well as gave me a huge jump start towards overall credits to graduate. I went to graduate school at Indiana University and was accepted into their bilingual program. Every semester, I worked with a Spanish speaking client and their families to diagnose and treat communication disorders. At the elementary school where I work, we have a growing Dual Language Immersion program. In grades K-2, we have native Spanish speakers and Native English speakers in a class together where half of their days instruction is in English and the other half is in Spanish. With my Spanish background, I have the skills to provide services to and make connection with all of my students and families, which is so valuable in today's world. None of this would have been possible without the rigorous high school Spanish classes.

Taking Spanish 5 & 6 in high school was an incredible experience and presented me with many opportunities moving forward. Because Spanish 5 & 6 were dual credit courses, I was able to start college with college credits already in my "bank," which allowed me to sign up for courses before peers of the same grade. This meant that I got first pick and time of course sections, which was extremely valuable. I also only had to take a few Spanish classes in college to earn my minor in Spanish! More than the logistical aspect, it gave me a desire to learn more about language and culture, which is why I chose to minor in Spanish in college. Now, fast forward a few years, I am a teacher in our bilingual program here at Heritage Elementary in Waunakee, using my Spanish knowledge every single day. It really feels like a full circle moment. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to take such high level Spanish classes in high school, and truly feel as though it sparked my love for learning more about culture and language. Because of this spark that Spanish 5 & 6 ignited, I'm able to reach more students every day and connect with ALL of my students through language.

-Kallie Ziegler, Class of 2017

This past spring, I studied abroad in Seville, Spain, participating in a Spanish immersion program and living with a host family. It was the greatest experience of my life thus far. While also definitely the most difficult adjustment I have had to make, I learned so much and don't regret my decision to live there for four months, immersing myself in their culture and practicing and improving my Spanish. I developed a great relationship with my host mother, and to this day, I am in contact with her. I can't wait to go back within the next couple of years.

I wouldn't be where I am today or have made that decision to study abroad in a city predominantly Spanish-speaking if it weren't for taking your Spanish 5 and 6 classes. I learned so much in those classes and they were two of my favorites in high school.

-Riley Miller, Class of 2022

Studying Spanish and French in high school was a huge help to my college and career. I double majored in Biblical Studies and Classical Languages, studying biblical Greek and Hebrew. My knowledge of Spanish and French were huge helps to me as I learned Greek and Hebrew because I knew many grammatical concepts already as well as good practices for memorizing vocabulary and for understanding verbal systems and different parts of speech. My high school language experience was a foundation on which I was able to build as I learned more languages, which I now use in my career.

Additionally, the awareness and appreciation of other cultures cultivated in World Language classes has been valuable to me as I have moved away from Waunakee and have interacted with people from different states, countries, and continents.

-Kendra Gering, Class of 2018

After WHS, I went to UW-Oshkosh, so the college credits transfered and I was able to get somewhere around 20 credits if I remember correctly. Those credits along with some hard work helped me graduate a whole year early. I ended up graduating with a major in Geography and a minor in Spanish. In total I was able to save thousands of dollars and I gained a year in the workforce because of the college credits that Spanish 5 & 6 gave me. Also the courses itself prepared me for success in college level Spanish courses. Spanish in general has helped me in conversations with speakers who have English as their second language. Although I don't use Spanish in my every day life (unless you count singing to Spanish music in my car once in awhile) I know that it will only take a little work to have that knowledge flood back. I thank you for all the work you did and have done to have the availability of those college credits in high school.

-Jack Schwartz, Class of 2017

My experience taking Spanish 5/6 and French 5 is something I am continually thankful for. Having that experience in high school lead me to continue taking Spanish courses while completing my undergraduate degree, including medical Spanish. While I don't use Spanish or French regularly, I have looked into ways to continue practicing like taking Spanish classes in medical school. And I still listen to the songs we would sing in class every week!

-Olivia Avery, Class of 2019

Spanish had retroactive credits which saved me money in college. Spanish allowed me to study abroad and fully immerse myself with a Spanish family and a semester of finance, marketing, and literature courses in Spanish. At the age of 20, that was a huge learning curve and forced me to step out of my comfort zone. I'll always love Spanish.

Something that is great is even though I don't use too often now, it's easy to pick back up and speak/read/write. Spanish travels with you throughout your journey.

-Katelyn Maier, Class of 2017

Taking Spanish all the way up to Spanish 6 in high school has helped in multiple ways and in different situations. I am grateful that I kept taking Spanish classes all the way throughout high school. In my past role in sales at a hotel in Madison, as well as in my current role as an office coordinator for a hospitality company, there have been both people that have called and that I have encountered in person that either flat out asked if I spoke Spanish or that I could tell were trying to communicate in English, but were trying to think of what to say. Because of my vocabulary and grammar that I learned in Spanish 5 & 6, we were able to communicate in Spanish and I was able to help answer their questions. I have definitely lost a little of knowledge throughout the years since I have been out of high school, but I retain key information that allows me to still be able to read and have conversations.

-Jena Opsahl, Class of 2020

Spanish was one of my favorite classes in high school, but it proved to be very useful for me as well. I came into college with 35 credits already, with most of them being from the dual credit program with UW-Oshkosh. I changed my major halfway through school, but the credits allowed me to still graduate on time this **spring.** Additionally, after two years in college, I withdrew and had time out of school before returning. I went to Spain for two months, and my previous Spanish knowledge helped me navigate the city of Malaga by myself. I made a lot of friends there, and since many of them were from other countries in Europe and Asia, our common language was Spanish. I have a B2 certificate in Spanish now, and I'm also applying for a board member role in the UW-Madison Spanish club.

-Caitlin Grommon, Class of 2022

I benefited from the CAPP credits I earned to attend university in French speaking Canada where I met my husband. We now live in the province of Québec with our young daughter. I teach English in a French school.

- Alyssa Polley Cressal, Class of 2016

I enjoyed French throughout high school and was happy to earn the 16 credits for level 5. I continued my French studies at UW Madison, studied abroad my junior year in Aix-en-Provence, and will earn a certificate in French. Next year, I will spend the year near Paris in the TAPIF program, as a teaching assistant for English courses.

- Decker Storch, Class of 2022

During my time at WHS, French was always the class I looked forward to. It felt like a family, and I was able to get to know more people better than I did in other electives. I loved my teachers, too! The highlight for me was going to France. I learned so much while having fun! I didn't just learn about the places and the language- this trip taught me a lot about myself. French was the most useful elective I took in high school to prepare me for college. I started at UW-Madison with 31 credits, thanks to CAPP and AP courses. This has given me more freedom in choosing my courses and set me up for success in college.

- Emma Stachour, Class of 2025



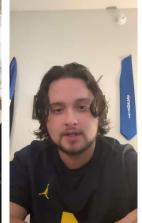
Kennedy Hanewall and Kelsey King, Class of 2022



Abby Myhra, Class of 2017



Sage Smith, Class of 2022



Luke Humphrey, Class of 2020



Elena Paul, Class of 2021



Abbey Eberle, Class of 2025



Nathan Mais, Class of 2019

Violet Peotter,
Class of 2023

Magnus Nicholson,
Class of 2022



Hadley Foss, Class of 2024



Adam Barberino, Class of 2017



Trip to China 2025





Thank you Zhu Laoshi, Wang Laoshi, as well as BLCU along with all those who could help us during the trip! This has been my most interesting travel experience by far and has taught me so much about the history of China as well as their current culture. Getting to know other students on this trip through our shared experiences has been amazing, and I deeply appreciate the hard work of all those involved. I hope that future students will find the same joy that I have for the last two weeks, and that this remains an amazing opportunity for many to take. - Sora G

I would like to personally thank Wang Laoshi and Xiuping Zhu for their perseverance and dedication to this cross cultural experience. Not only was it an amazing time for everyone to be immersed in a culture they have been learning about but to also see with their own eyes and experience for themselves that global travel does not have to be scary. In fact it is often an enriching and welcoming experience! Get out in the world and do great things! Don't let anything hold you back! Thanks again for making this empowering adventure possible. These experiences truly help make the world feel a little more approachable and help unlock a global mentality as you replace apprehension with appreciation.







Trip to Spain 2025





I have felt more engaged and excited to learn Spanish after going on this trip, as I now can see how important and amazing that being able to speak a second language is. The trip opened my eyes to the benefits that learning language can bring, and I now am more motivated than ever to continue to develop my Spanish-speaking skills.

-Henry Boldt, Junior

Going on the trip to Spain with so many of my peers and teachers whom I care about was a once in a lifetime opportunity that has helped me feel more engaged and connected to Spanish class. Every year we discuss grammar topics and work to improve our conversational skills, and this experience helped me realize the real life applications of what we're learning. Additionally, I've felt more motivated to speak Spanish in class so that I can incorporate it into my future career. Overall, seeing and learning about the culture of Spain has definitely helped me feel more connected in class, and I still reflect on the great experiences I had during the trip.

Dominick Praksti, Senior

Trip to France 2024





- Hands-on cultural workshops, such as a perfume-making workshop
- Visiting historical sites in a variety of French regions
- One-week family-stay, experiencing authentic French life with welcoming host families
- Using language skills and cultural knowledge in authentic situations such as dining, shopping, public transportation, and of course connecting with their host families



- French Club
- Spanish Honor Society
- Spanish Club
- Soñadores/Dreamers

French Club Activities

ALL are welcome to join French Club to enjoy great snacks with French flair, participation in Halloween in the Halls, a holiday baking competition, French music, games, and fun!

Membership: 35+



Spanish Honor Society

Invitation only:

*Enrolled in Spanish III or higher & plans to continue *3.0 GPA overall / average of 3.3 GPA in Spanish *Juniors and Seniors (induction spring of sophomore year)

Members:

*Complete 15 service hours - 5 hours dedicated to community service with use of Spanish

*Partnership with Crossroads Methodist English classes and childcare, WNC English class childcare, Public Library Events, and Waunakee Food Pantry

Accomplishments:

*6 senior scholarships earned over the past 8 years and 2 junior travel awards to visit Puerto Rico and Panamá

Membership: 116



Soñadores/Dreamers Club

- *Open to all Hispanic/Latino students (Gr. 9-12)
- *Meet every Wednesday during CT
- *Meetings are done in both English & Spanish

Goals

- *To have a safe place to be seen and heard
- * Create new friendships in and outside of school
- *Learn more about culture, community, & social justice

Activities:

- *Homecoming Parade/Fall Movie Night
- *Mentoring with Intermediate School Soñadores and with Heritage kids & volunteering with WNC *Fundraising for an end of year club field trip in the Madison Area to La Movida & Centro Hispano

Membership: 33





World Language Department: Goals

- → Cohesive Vertical Alignment of our courses offered K-12
- → Confer with the EL and Bilingual program to anticipate the needs of our students
- → Continue our professional development with Paul Sandrock, former DPI World Language Assistant Director and former ACTFL Senior Adviser
- → Continue to offer CAPP courses this requires a commitment to hiring and retaining qualified teachers for our programs (French and Spanish - Masters degree required for UWO adjuncts)

THANK YOU!

What questions do you have for us?

Please ask or contact us!