



# WORLD LANGUAGE

## AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY: IMPORTANT DATES

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### PLACEMENT TESTING:

**Saturday, February 11: 10:00-11:00 a.m., SJA Gymnasium**

**MAKEUP TEST: Monday, February 13, 4:30 p.m.**

Students who have taken Spanish, French, and Latin in the past should make a plan to participate in SJA's World Language placement testing. We encourage EVERYONE with significant world language experience to take a placement test. This diagnostic test will help SJA World Language faculty determine the best level for you to start your language studies as a freshman. It may be difficult to test into level 2 of any language as a freshman. Most students who test into Spanish 2 or French 2, for example, come from grade schools with comprehensive world language programs.

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### LANGUAGE PREFERENCE SELECTION:

**Tuesday, March 7: 6:00 p.m., SJA Theater**

During the Class of 2027 Freshman Welcome Night, you will be asked to indicate your language preferences with your course registration paperwork. We do our best to place students in their first choice, but please note there is no guarantee that everyone will be able to study their first-choice language as a freshman.

If you have questions, you may contact the World Language department chair Leigh LaMonica at [llamonica@sjal840.org](mailto:llamonica@sjal840.org).

For students with a diagnosed learning disability, especially in the area of auditory processing or language impairment, SJA's Learning Specialist, Kathryn DePung, is available for questions and advice regarding world language selection.

You may reach her at 314-394-4314 or e-mail: [kdepung@stjosephacademy.org](mailto:kdepung@stjosephacademy.org).

*For more information  
regarding the  
SJA World Language  
program, please  
contact:*



**MRS. LEIGH LA MONICA**

World Language  
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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### How many years of language must I take at SJA?

A Minimum of two consecutive years of the same language are required, but all World Language teachers recommend four years for maximum language proficiency and college applications.

#### What if I can't take my first choice language as a freshman?

On the rare occasion that this happens, you will likely be placed into your second choice language. Students usually end up thriving in their second-choice language and are excited to continue studying beyond freshman year. Some students even choose to build up their college resume by adding their first-choice language as an elective later on! Academic Counselors and World Language teachers will walk you through all of these details if this does end up happening.

#### Can I take two language courses at the same time?

Yes! If there is room in your schedule, two languages are encouraged. Most students do not have room in their schedules to choose electives until sophomore year or later.



#### Are there extracurricular activities connected to World Language that I can participate in?

Each language has an honors society where students have the opportunity to do outside activities to enhance their learning of the language. There are certain requirements for each honors society that students must meet in order to receive recognition at graduation. Students who meet these requirements will receive an honors cord to wear at graduation.

#### Are there international trips I can participate in?

Our World Language teachers independently partner with several educational travel companies to offer trips that are not school sponsored. Not all students at SJA participate in these outside opportunities. Most students who have the means to participate in these trips do so after their sophomore year.

*For more information regarding the SJA World Language program, please contact:*



**MRS. LEIGH LA MONICA**

World Language  
Department Chair  
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### FRENCH

#### Why French?

French is spoken by more than 200 million people on all seven continents. Fluency in French gives young adults a competitive edge on the job market, due to France's large international economy.

#### Why French at SJA?

The French program at SJA builds real-world communication in the target language through fun, relevant, and engaging activities. Students will learn about the French-speaking world and ways to use their language to communicate in different settings.

Yearly trips to France and Europe offer many opportunities to enhance language skills and cultural perspective. Eligible students can earn up to 9 hours of college credit, 3 years of honors credit, and AP credit. Our French Honors Society offers many opportunities for communication outside of the classroom setting.

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#### Courses Offered:

- > French I
- > French II
- > ACC French III
- > ACC French IV
- > AP/ACC French IV: Langage and Culture



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### LATIN

#### Latin is...

- › the basis of around 60% of **English** vocabulary and grammar.
- › a key to understanding nearly every “**Western culture**” and language.
- › an **UNdead** language!

#### Latin helps...

- › improve **English** vocabulary, boosting performance on **SAT/ACT**.
- › develop both **creative** and **abstract** thinking.
- › prepare students to succeed in both **Arts** and **STEM** careers, especially in the fields of **law** and **medicine**.
- › students “**hack into**” and quickly learn **other languages** when they are older, such as French, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese.

#### Latin classes at SJA ...

- › emphasize **reading & writing**, with minimal speaking or listening.
- › follow an **ongoing series of stories** featuring historical figures and fictional characters, then transition to reading authentic literature from the ancient world.
- › Explore **daily life, culture, religion, history, and technology** throughout the Roman empire, including **Rome, Pompeii, London, Athens & Alexandria**.

#### Latin students at SJA can ...

- › take Latin I, Latin II, **Honors** Latin III, and **Honors** Latin IV.
- › join **Latin Honor Society** to celebrate Roman culture, history, & language.
- › participate in trips to **Italy and Greece** (not *official* SJA trips).

Go to the links below to learn more!

[Why Learn Latin](#)

[Latin Advantage](#)

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### MANDARIN CHINESE

Mandarin is the language of over 1.2 billion people and is a language of the United Nations; unique possibilities exist for those who learn Mandarin, as it is the most spoken language in the world. SJA has had numerous scholarship recipients of the US government sponsored NSLI-Y program for Mandarin; 98% of SJA Mandarin students decide to take all four years of coursework, and many continue their language learning at university and into their professional lives, even changing career paths for Mandarin-based opportunities.

#### 中文

Most people think learning Mandarin is super difficult, but that is a MYTH. In Mandarin we don't conjugate verbs, don't have verb tenses, don't have gender agreement, don't have number agreement, and don't use plurals.

#### 汉语

The teacher at SJA is a native English speaker who understands how your brain thinks about this language; she is able to teach it in a way that is easily understood, including the writing system (taught in level II) - an ancient art form that will impress even your most academic friends! Both temporal lobes of the brain are used to produce Mandarin. While alphabet languages only use the left lobe, characters are written using all four directions which activates neural pathways in working, thinking, and spatial memory. Math skills are sharpened due to the counting, grouping, ordering, and identifying of similarities and differences of characters.

#### 普通话

SJA is a member of the National Mandarin Chinese Honor Society, and Mandarin Chinese III and IV are honors courses. We offer biennial trips to China and have a trip planned in 2024. Be courageous, set yourself apart, and register today!

圣约瑟夫学院欢迎你！

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## SPANISH

### Why Spanish?

Spanish is spoken by 500 million people. There are over 40 million speakers in the US, making it the second most spoken language here. Fluency in Spanish allows you to communicate with millions of people in addition to complementing any career goals you have.

### Why Spanish at SJA?

We use authentic resources such as movies, videos, magazines, TV programs, and prints. Our Spanish curriculum is vibrant and based on highly relevant cultural topics of interest to high schoolers. You will have daily opportunities to use the language with your peers in an energetic setting. All Spanish instructors are highly qualified and have studied abroad in Spain, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Eligible students can earn 4 years of honors credits, up to 13 hours of college credit, and AP credit. Our National Honor Society offers multiple opportunities to use your Spanish skills outside of the classroom.

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### Courses Offered:

- › Spanish I
- › Spanish I Accelerated
- › Spanish 2
- › Spanish 2 Accelerated
- › ACP Spanish 3
- › ACP Spanish IV
- › AP Spanish IV
- › Honors Spanish IV: Culture through Literature and Film