

The Middle School of the Kennebunks

Foreign Language at The Middle School of the Kennebunks offers its students a 2.5 year experience between grades 6, 7, and 8.

The images below reflect the MSK 7 day rotating schedule. Colored blocks represent the frequency of class meetings.

- * Grade 6 students enroll in a one semester experience in French. They meet twice during the 7-day cycle.

Grade 6 French (one semester)						

- * Grade 7 students choose to enroll in either French or Spanish for a 2-year program. Within this framework, some students experience a “compacted” 6 day/ cycle course. Other students who receive support in Language Arts, enroll in a “foundations” course that meets 3 of 7 days per cycle.
- * Grade 8 students complete the second year of their language study within the same framework as in their 7th grade year.

Foundations in French/Spanish (full year)						
Compacted French/Spanish (full year)						

The Value of Foreign Language Study

Research has shown :

- * Foreign language study improves analyzing and interpretive skills.
- * Foreign language study enhances listening skills and memory.
- * Students of foreign language develop greater creativity, divergent thinking, and higher-order thinking skills.
- * Knowledge of other languages boosts understanding of languages in general and enables individuals to use their native language more effectively. English vocabulary skill increases as a result of foreign language study.
- * SAT math and verbal scores increase with each additional year of foreign language study.
- * Foreign language study creates more positive attitudes and less prejudice toward people who are culturally different.
- * Foreign language study introduces students to literature, music, art, and folklore of other cultures .
- * Learning a foreign language provides a competitive edge in career choices.
- * A Global economy requires knowledge of a second language.
- * Being able to communicate in a foreign language makes travel more feasible and enjoyable.



Kennebunk High School



Modern and Classical Languages

French
German
Latin
Spanish



Middle School of the Kennebunks

Our Vision

The Modern and Classical Languages Program of Studies is designed to enable students to use oral and written language for meaningful and culturally appropriate communication in the situations they are most likely to encounter.

The program helps students appreciate linguistic and cultural diversity and the contributions of other peoples to world civilization.

Students begin to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for effective participation in an economically, socially, and politically interdependent world.

Maine Standards

- A. Person –to–Person Communication
- B. Reading, Listening, and Viewing for Understanding
- C. Oral and Written Presentations
- D. Workings of language
- E. Cultural Practices, Products, and Perspectives
- F. Cross-cultural Connections and Comparisons

Faculty

French: KHS * Paula Norbert, Hassina Taylor
 MSK Merrily Dancause, Nicole Fecteau

German: Andrew Lucas

Latin: * Lorraine Curtis, *Kathleen Harder

Spanish: KHS Jane Matheson, Karen Moore,
 Juliet Pruden,
 MSK Ellen McEnaney, Sally Wakeland

* denotes part-time



Course Offerings

The department offers a five-year sequence in French and Spanish, a four-year sequence in German, and a two-year sequence in Latin. At the present time, Levels I, II, and III are non-leveled courses in all languages. French IV, V, and VI and Spanish IV & V are offered as Honors level classes.

Advanced foreign language students are offered the opportunity to enroll in college level courses at the University of Southern Maine. They may also opt to take the French or Spanish AP exam.

Teaching Foreign Language at the Elementary School is a one semester service learning course offered to advanced level students. Students create their own materials, write lesson plans, and teach basic foreign language topics to elementary school students. Currently, all MSAD 71 fifth grade classes receive an introduction to foreign language through this course.

KHS Current Enrollments (2005-2006)								
	Latin		German		Spanish		French	
I	55	I	53	I	63	I	24	
II	16	II	32	II	82	II	39	
		III	11	III	60	III	33	
		IV	8	IV	31	IV	15	
						IV AP	1	
				V	19	V	4	
						V AP	1	
						VI AP	1	

While the minimum foreign language requirement for acceptance to most colleges is two years, the more competitive schools are requesting three, four or five years of the same language.

Kennebunk High School has seen an increase in the number of students choosing to complete four or five years of language study.

Some students take more than one language. During the 2005-2006 school year, twenty nine Latin I students are also enrolled in French, German, or Spanish classes.

Why Study Latin?

- ◆ Vocabulary—60% of English words are derived from Latin
- ◆ Grammar— While neither the language nor grammar of English derives from Latin, many grammatical rules do.
- ◆ Latin provides a basis for the study of modern languages, especially the romance languages.
- ◆ Latin boosts verbal skills and scores on the SAT. Students with two or more years of Latin typically score 140-160 points higher than those who have not studied Latin.
- ◆ Latin introduces students to history, art, literature, philosophy, and law.

MSK Current Enrollments (2005-2006)		
Grade 6	French: 175 (1 semester)	
Grade 7	French: Foundations: 44 Compacted: 23	Spanish: Foundations: 47 Compacted: 42
Grade 8	French: Foundations: 46 Compacted: 16	Spanish: Foundations: 39 Compacted: 35