



JL Long Middle School is proud to announce that we are one of the exceptional public schools offering American Sign Language, Chinese, French and Spanish in middle school. The study of additional languages in the *Middle Years Programme (MYP)* provides students with the opportunity to develop insights into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture, and to realize that there are diverse ways of living, viewing and behaving in the world.

Students will take the same language all three years at JL Long and will earn the two credits for their high school language graduation requirement.

6th grade: Language IA
7th grade: Language IB
8th grade: Language II

MANDARIN CHINESE

Millions of people are studying Mandarin Chinese as a second language.

In many ways, Mandarin Chinese is much easier to learn than European languages.

Here are some features which make Mandarin easy:

- no subject/verb agreement, plurals, conjugations, tenses,
- simple numbering system, conditional sentences and simple prepositions

Why Learn Mandarin?

One fifth of the planet speaks Chinese.

Business - China is the second largest economy in the world and one of the largest trading partners of the United States. Business people who speak Mandarin have a huge advantage in tapping into the Chinese market.

Travel - Three years ago 6 students from Long Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School visited China in the summer. The trip was sponsored by the Confucius Institute of UTD. If you study Chinese, you may be eligible to apply for the trip to China in your 8th grade year.

Culture - China is one of the world's oldest and richest continuous cultures, over 5000 years old. With thousands of years of history, Chinese culture is endlessly fascinating.

Chinese Characters - Despite the Chinese writing system's difficulty, learning to read and write Chinese will give you a lifetime of intellectual stimulation. There is a system to their design, and understanding that system makes it much easier to learn new characters.

Take the challenge and learn Mandarin Chinese!

It is your ticket to a lifetime of rewards.

SPANISH

Five Reasons to take Spanish

1. **Spanish is not a foreign language anymore:** An estimated 37.6 million people speak Spanish in the US.
2. **Employers like multi-linguals:** With such a large Latino population in the US and around the world, employers are desperate for people who speak Spanish.
3. **It will unlock a world of travel destinations:** 329 million native Spanish speakers live in some of the coolest destinations in the world.
4. **Spanish is easy to learn:** Spanish is almost completely phonetic. Spanish has lot of words that look similar in both English and Spanish.
5. **Enjoy books, movies and music:** Enjoy reading classics in literature, Spanish movies and music by Pitbull, Enrique Iglesias & Jennifer Lopez.

Expectations:

Open an exciting new chapter in your life as you learn to communicate in a whole new way. This course is designed to offer YOU an introduction to the Spanish language and its many cultures. Its intent is to expose YOU to the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing and to a culture different from your own.

The course includes a presentation of grammar concepts, vocabulary and culture with instructional emphasis on conversation. YOU will be expected to participate with your own

Thinking of taking ASL, you must be willing to:

- Turn your voice off
- Learn to use only visual communication
- Maintain eye contact with people while signing
- Immerse yourself in a language and culture
- Use your face and body to communicate

Topics to be learned: alphabet, food, family signs, daily activities, greetings, places, locations, colors, date & month, numbers and seasons.

FRENCH

Our French program will broaden the students' cultural awareness and foster the social and economic benefits of French as a second language. The program relies heavily upon vocabulary, using skills of listening, speaking, and writing to reinforce the reading skills in the French. Our French program wants to help each student attain an acceptable degree of proficiency at his/her level in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in addition to cultural awareness of the target language.

Our students take part in creative projects related to their unit and learning objectives. In addition, French students are encouraged to participate in area and national French competitions such as the National French Contest, the National French week Contest, and Fete Française. We are very excited to see that the number of our French students is growing rapidly with many students continuing their French in advance levels in high school.

American Sign Language is a visual language

TOP TEN REASONS TO TAKE ASL:

1. You can communicate through windows.
2. Sign Language is a 3-D language.
3. You can sign with your mouth full.
4. Hearing parents can communicate with their deaf child or vice versa.
5. You can sign underwater.
6. Sign Language is a neat way to express yourself.
7. You can communicate across a room or via mirror without shouting.
8. Sign Language is beautiful.
9. You can make friends with deaf people.
10. Sign Language brings together hearing and deaf people.