

Learning a New Language

In today's world, language skills are more important than ever. Grade 11 second language is an entrance requirement for many post-secondary institutions. If you are planning to study in the Faculty of Arts or Business, one should seriously consider studying a Grade 12 second language. This way, you will not need to take a first year post-secondary language course, which is required by many institutions in order to fulfill program requirements.

As the economy becomes more globalized, knowing a second or third language is a necessity, and provides you a competitive edge. Employers want workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures. Learning languages broadens world perspectives and makes traveling abroad more enjoyable. When you learn a new language, you develop a greater understanding of your first language. So come on board, begin your journey, and sign up for one or more of the four languages offered at Burnaby Mountain.



Reasons to Study a Foreign Language

To Travel Abroad

Speaking the foreign language of the country you are visiting enables you to participate more effectively in day-to-day life.

To Enhance Job Prospects

Foreign language ability looks attractive to prospective employers. International job applicants who are proficient in at least two languages will be at a distinct advantage in the global market.

To Better Understand Other Cultures

Knowledge of another language gives insight into another culture and enables you to experience life from a different point of view.

To Experience Foreign Literature, Movies and Music

You can enjoy the works of Dante, Fellini and Puccini by learning Italian. Or you can read Tolstoy in his native language if you choose to learn Russian.

To Better Understand Your Own Culture

Exposure to another language and culture gives you the ability to observe your own culture. Value systems and norms that you previously thought of as universal look very different when viewed more objectively.

To Improve Cognitive Ability

Foreign language study increases problem-solving skills, memory and self-discipline. Also, children who study a second language often score higher in subjects such as math and reading.

To Make Learning Another Foreign Language Easier

Studying a foreign language helps you develop metalinguistic awareness—a knowledge of how languages work.

To Study Abroad

It's much easier to study abroad when you can already speak a little of the country's language. Not only does it reduce culture shock, but it lets you concentrate on your course of study, rather than learning the language.

To Increase Ability in Your Own Language

Through a process of compare and contrast, you will develop a better understanding of and ability in your own language.

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



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FRENCH 8

The prescribed learning outcomes of the French 8 Program focus on the development of problem solving skills, and the enhancement of student self-awareness as learners in a classroom community. Students will begin the French 8 program by reviewing basic concepts introduced in elementary school. They will explore a variety of themes through which students will develop their ability to communicate in French, read and write simple sentences, and learn about Francophone cultures.

FRENCH 9

The French 9 program enhances students' knowledge of grammar and francophone cultures. Students continue to develop French literacy through reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Emphasis is on oral communication, through co-operative learning activities, which foster an inclusive classroom environment. A variety of themes are covered in this course.

FRENCH 10

Listening, writing, speaking and reading skills are strengthened, and practiced on a daily basis. Themes covered in the **Communiquête 3** program are French survival skills, careers, inventions, weather phenomena, urban legends, and media. The exploration of francophone culture is enhanced.

FRENCH 11

This course is a more rigorous study of all aspects of written and oral communication as well as francophone culture. Themes covered in the **D'Accord 2** program are parts of the house, health, parts of a car, good driving habits, city life, shopping, the simple future tense, the past tenses, the conditional mode. French 11 meets the entrance requirements for most universities.

FRENCH LEADERSHIP 11 (New Course)

While continuing to develop French communication skills, students will collaboratively design and implement lessons and projects for FSL elementary students. By examining leadership and learning styles, students will develop critical and creative thinking skills. Students will gain an understanding of personal awareness, cultural identity, and social responsibility. Students will have opportunities to self-reflect, self-assess, and peer-assess, & create plans of action for their future.

FRENCH 12

This course is the culmination of five years' study of French language and culture. More complex facets of the language are introduced to complement the skills acquired in previous courses. Students will learn the Pluperfect Tense, the Conditional Past and the Subjunctive Mode. Students will complete group projects related to the themes covered in class. The **Imaginez** textbook is used.

SPANISH 9 and INTRODUCTORY SPANISH 11

This is an introductory course that focuses on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students learn basic vocabulary and grammar including greetings, numbers, weather, time, days, months, asking questions, classroom objects and expressions, etc...Traditions and customs of Spanish-speaking people around the world are explored. Intro Spanish 11 meets the entrance requirements for Simon Fraser University.

SPANISH 10

This course enhances students' writing and reading skills through the use of authentic documents and projects. Speaking and listening skills are strengthened through conversations and skits depicting real life situations. Students learn about values, customs, and contributions of the various Hispanic cultures in the world.

SPANISH 11

Students continue to explore more advanced aspects of the Spanish language. Students enhance listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in a variety of situations. Various aspects of Spanish speaking cultures are studied through videos, music, and stories. Some themes explored are travel and leisure, art, food, childhood experiences, family celebrations, and health and fitness. Spanish 11 meets the entrance requirements for most universities.

SPANISH 12

This course emphasizes oral, written and comprehension skills in much greater depth. Students' knowledge of language and culture is developed through authentic documents. Students will be able to write compositions and carry on meaningful discussions in Spanish.

***ABOUT TPRS**

Ms. DeRuyter's Spanish courses and Ms. Nogayeva's French courses are taught using the **TPRS approach (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling)**. **All the Grammar and Vocabulary required by the Curriculum are taught in context through engaging and personalized stories. The teacher presents the "target structures" to the class and establishes the problem of the story. Then, using a very specific questioning technique called "circling", the teacher and the students create the story. The target vocabulary is always displayed in both languages to insure complete understanding. This method insures large amount of repetition and comprehensible input needed for language acquisition.**

MANDARIN 9 and INTRODUCTORY MANDARIN 11

Students will be introduced to the basic skills of oral and written communication using simplified Chinese characters and Pin Yin to express daily greetings. They will also explore Chinese culture and history. Intro Mandarin 11 covers the equivalent of Mandarin 9 & 10, and meets entrance requirements for Simon Fraser University.

MANDARIN 10

This course is a continuation of Mandarin 9 with an emphasis on written and oral communication skills. Students will explore the culture of Mandarin-speaking countries. They will continue to learn vocabulary in Pin Yin.

MANDARIN 11

Students continue to develop communication skills at a more advanced level. Students will converse about everyday life. The course will broaden students' vision of the Chinese culture, and help them gain a better understanding of customs and traditions.

MANDARIN 12

Students will continue the study of the written and oral language, and explore Chinese culture in greater depth. They will be able to write paragraphs and communicate in Mandarin through conversation.

AP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Developing students' awareness and appreciation of the elements of the culture of Chinese-speaking people is a pervasive theme throughout the course. This course engages students in an exploration of both contemporary and historical Chinese culture.

(www.apcentral.collegeboard.org)

JAPANESE 9 and INTRODUCTORY JAPANESE 11

Students start from the very beginning with basic phrases, basic character recognition, and culture. Hiragana, Katakana, and some Kanji will be covered. Students will concentrate on comprehensible input of the language through reading and story-telling (*TPRS – see "Spanish"). Intro Japanese 11 students will be accelerated in order to prepare for and take Japanese 11 the following year.

JAPANESE 10

Students build on their learning from Japanese 9. More challenging TPRS stories will be presented. Basic Kanji will be a reading focus as well as more written and spoken output. Cultural activities and projects will supplement the learning.

JAPANESE 11

Students will continue with advanced TPRS stories and increased output of the language. Kanji will be a supplemental reading focus. Finer details of grammar will be explored. Conversation and daily situations will be a goal. Supplemental projects will focus on culture and usability of the language.

JAPANESE 12

Students will focus on strengthening their language skills through situational and cultural studies. Drawing from previous course material, students continue to develop their language proficiency for use in real-life situations. Post-secondary preparation is a supplemental focus.