

World Language Policy

Philosophy

World Language is at the heart of what we believe every child can learn. Our philosophy maintains that studying a world language, even when it does not come easily, is expected of all students who have been accepted to attend Renaissance Academy. Completion of the language requirement includes passing specified courses, and demonstrating proficiency on multi-skill world language tests.

This commitment is supported by research indicating that knowledge of other languages improves students' understanding of languages in general and enables them to use their native language more effectively. Children who learn a second language show greater cognitive development in areas such as mental flexibility, creativity, and higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, conceptualizing and reasoning. The study of World Language at Renaissance is a cornerstone in our mission to prepare our students for an increasingly global human experience.

Standards

World language is part of the Renaissance Academy core curriculum and thus, participation in the program is expected of all enrolled students. There is no exemption from world language classes.

Placement

Students enrolling in 1st and 6th grade will have the opportunity to state a preference for a particular language offering. The request will be made during the enrollment or re-enrollment process each year. Renaissance Academy does not guarantee student placement in any given language or the opportunity to transfer into their preferred language. While the stated preference will be considered in determining language placement--program capacity, staffing and other operational considerations impact our ability to grant preferred placement in all cases. Once a language assignment is made, the student will remain in the assigned language until 6th grade.

Children with Special Needs

We want every child to succeed in the world language program and believe that the following reflects the national concern for special needs students while supporting Renaissance Academy's commitment to world language learning.

It is our position that students with special needs can successfully complete world language classes. We recognize that some students with language learning disabilities may encounter difficulties when attempting to learn another language. Nevertheless, we believe they can develop world language skills and even gain the confidence to speak and write in a new language.

Accommodations

The world language program will provide appropriate accommodations for students with special needs. These accommodations will be determined on a case by case basis.