



World Language Program  
Weston Middle School





## World Languages- Grades 6, 7 and 8

Soon Weston Field School 5th graders will be selecting their world language for grades 6 through 8, a three year commitment. Language offerings consist of the following four great choices: French, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish. In addition to the linguistic advantages that language study provides, learning a language gives us a view into other cultures and people. This teaches tolerance, acceptance of human differences and an understanding of other perspectives.

If you stay with your original language beyond the middle school experience and into high school, no matter what your language choice, you will have the opportunity for a college level experience while at high school. A significant number of students even take two languages at the high school and why not? If you do well in one, chances are you will do well in another! If you are a heritage speaker of a language, you may enroll in that language to improve your skills or you may choose a different language. Please keep in mind that these are beginning language courses when you make your choice.

So give some thought to this very big decision you are about to make. You will stay with this language for all three years at WMS. Talk it over as a family, do your research, but know that any choice you make is the right choice because all languages are fun and useful!

Read on for a few facts about each of the four languages we offer at Weston Middle School.



## French

- Widely considered one of the most beautiful and lyrical languages in the world.
- Used in organizations such as the Peace Corps and Doctors Without Borders.
- It is the official working language of organizations like NATO, UNESCO, the International Olympic Committee and the Red Cross.
- One of the two official languages of the United States' largest trading partner and our neighbor to the north, Canada.
- A good language to know for travel, as many people in Europe, North America and Africa speak French.

## Latin

- It is the base language of law, medicine, government, science and more.
- 65% of all English words come directly from Latin!
- Latin is the origin of all romance languages.
- Latin helps with learning English grammar and vocabulary.
- You learn about life in ancient Rome through learning the language.

# Mandarin

- Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world.
- Knowing Mandarin is helpful in conducting business in China.
- There is very little grammar to learn!
- Writing characters may interest people who like art.
- Mandarin is a tonal language with almost a musical quality to it.

# Spanish

- Spanish is widely spoken in the U.S. and is useful in everyday life.
- It is the official language of over 20 countries.
- Spanish is one of the easiest languages to spell since it is phonetic.
- Spanish is useful in many professions- medicine, law, business, etc.
- Over 400 million people speak Spanish as their first language, and the number grows every day!



Please contact Kathleen Baker, Director of World Languages, with any questions at [bakerk@weston.org](mailto:bakerk@weston.org)