

French classes at West Potomac

We offer French 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and AP.

- Taking levels 1, 2 and 3 of a language fulfills the requirements for the Advanced Diploma
 - By the end of level 3, students should be able to have a short conversation about a variety of topics.
- Occasionally, students with exceptional skill may skip from level 1 to 3 or level 2 to 4 in order to learn more quickly and advance into the upper level classes earlier. To be eligible to consider this option, students should have an “A” throughout the first semester, should show enthusiasm for the language by speaking as much French as possible in class and demonstrate a strong work ethic. Such students would complete a summer assignment as determined by the teacher and would be encouraged to come to Wolverine Time regularly in the first quarter to make sure they are on top of their challenging situation.
- Taking a level 4 or higher language class is often seen by colleges as a sign of a serious student.
 - By the end of level 4, students should be able to have a short to medium length conversation about most topics.
- Taking an AP-level language class is always seen by colleges as a sign of a serious student.
 - By the end of level AP, students should be able to have a medium to longer conversation about most topics.
- French 5 and AP can be taken in any order. Students who start French early may take level 5 before AP to give them more experience before they take the AP test. Students completing AP as juniors who wish to continue with French may take French 5 after AP.
- French 5 and AP French are taught together 80% of the time. They meet together in the same room in a split class, and for most of the first semester the classes are identical.
- As the year progresses, roughly every other class period the AP students work on AP-specific skills and get more practice of the kinds of readings and listening exercises that will help them succeed on the exam.
 - During this time, French 5 students complete independent or group projects and explore the language in a more self-directed way.
 - After the AP exam the classes do cultural studies directed by student interest, including but not limited to French music, art and cinema.
- Some students may choose French 5 instead of AP if they already have a heavy AP load and want to learn French without the pressure of the exam.
- The ultimate goal of high school language study is to prepare students for an eventual trip abroad, which is where they will take their language to the next level.
- Special linguistic & cultural events include French pastry bake-off, a very active French Club, French-themed field trips and Spring Break in France trip.

Email the French teachers, Mr. Fitzgerald or Mme. Anderson, with any questions:

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