

## MAKING YOUR SELECTION

**Q:** Is there anything else to consider?

- France is known for her remarkable traditions in poetry, theater and novels. This opens the door to a world of rich culture, expressing the deepest longings of the human soul, reaching out to something greater than the individual and that shapes every individual.
- The chances that your neighbor will speak Spanish are greater than him speaking any other foreign language. Knowing his language can be useful for evangelism.
- If you have especially enjoyed the times in Latin class where you have learned to say things in Latin, you will probably really enjoy learning to speak French or Spanish.
- If you want to read the New Testament in the original Greek, a knowledge of Latin is a great help as a first step. Understanding the history and culture of the Roman/Greco world helps us correctly interpret the New Testament, especially Paul's writings.

- CDS is committed to making it possible to take a modern language in addition to Latin.
- If you are good at foreign language, but hesitant to commit to AP at this stage, selective colleges will accept Latin II followed by three years of French or Spanish—and they will be easier for you since those languages come from Latin.
- To start French or Spanish in 9th grade, a B average in Latin and Language Arts is recommended.
- To continue in Latin, a high B, and/or an award on the National Latin Exam is recommended.
- If you do not have the recommended grades, you must check with your Language Arts or Latin teacher for a written recommendation to be turned in with your course selection.

**If you still have questions, any  
CDS foreign language teacher will be glad to help you  
with your decision.**

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**Covenant  
Day School**

**FOREIGN  
LANGUAGES  
IN THE HIGH  
SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM**

**Planning for  
9th Grade**



**Q:** Should I take a Foreign Language in Ninth Grade?

**A:** Not necessarily: even though CDS students take Spanish or Latin K-8, it becomes an elective in high school.

**Q:** How many years of foreign language are required to graduate from high school?

**A:** North Carolina recommends two years.

**Q:** How many years are required by most colleges and universities?

**A:** At this time, applicants for the state universities in North Carolina must have two years of high school foreign language. Three or more years offer a competitive edge for admission to selective schools.

**Q:** What else do colleges and universities recommend about foreign language?

**A:** Admissions offices advise students to take their final year of foreign language during their senior year of high school, so that it is fresh in their minds during collegiate placement exams

**Q:** How do I decide how many years of foreign language are right for me?

**A: Ask yourself:**

- Have I enjoyed and been successful in foreign language so far?
- Have I consistently earned high grades in those classes or in Language Arts?

***IF YOU ANSWERED ‘YES’ TO ANY OF THESE YOU ARE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS.***

**Q:** What is the difference between three years or four years?

**A:** The third year of any foreign language gets significantly harder, like advanced math. The fourth year usually leads to the Advanced Placement (AP) exam, which

can provide college credit if you score well enough. If you don’t plan to take AP, it may be best to delay beginning your foreign language at least until 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

***OK—SO I AM PLANNING TO TAKE FOUR YEARS!—WHICH LANGUAGE IS FOR ME?***

**Q:** Will I need a language for my career?

- French is probably the best language choice in the following careers: business consultant, cuisine, diplomacy, fashion, international trade, educational software, engineering, music, journalism, marketing, medical research, optics, publishing, telecommunications and sports-casting. North Carolina has a large number of international French-speaking firms.
- Spanish is especially useful in professions serving Hispanic immigrants who have not yet learned English. Examples include: medical, police/fire, public service, translation, banking, legal, education, retail sales, and food services. Many companies are relocating manufacturing jobs to South America.
- Latin offers a good foundation for the technical terminology of law, medicine and theology. It also offers basic grounding in how foreign languages work, and is useful not only for Italian or Portuguese (spoken in Brazil as well as Portugal) and overseas missions.

***SOUNDS INTERESTING, BUT WHAT IF I AM NOT SURE ABOUT MY LONG TERM GOALS?***

**Q:** What do I need to consider for college or university admission?

- The most important thing is to enjoy and do well in your chosen language.

- Spanish is a good choice if you are only planning to take two years, since the first two years may be slightly easier than the other languages though it becomes increasingly more difficult after that.
  - French and Latin both enrich English vocabulary, and Latin in particular shows a high correlation with success on the verbal part of the SAT.
  - Four years of the same Foreign Language will strengthen the transcripts of students who are not suited for advanced math and science credits.
  - Very selective universities are impressed with Latin as evidence of a serious intellectual/logical work-out. It is the most difficult language studied in high school.
  - A reading knowledge of French (and German) is usually necessary for graduate study in the humanities.
- Q:** What will be most useful for travel?
- Spanish is spoken in most countries of Latin America, in Spain and in places in the Far East, by 350 million people in twenty-one different countries. Approximately 100 million people speak it as a second language.
  - If you intend to travel to Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, or Africa, you will find that French is the most common second language spoken in those areas—and, indeed, worldwide. French is also the official language of the Olympic Games and the second language of the Internet.

***LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IS A SPECIFIC WAY TO INCREASE ONE’S AWARENESS OF ANOTHER PEOPLE GROUP & CULTURE.***