

MANDARIN

- Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world. One of five people in the whole world speaks Mandarin Chinese.
- The Chinese economy is the fastest growing and is currently the second largest economy in the world.
- With more than 4,000 years of history, Chinese culture is endlessly fascinating. Knowledge of Mandarin will enrich students' understanding of Chinese culture, including art, architecture, music or cuisine.
- Be equipped for future opportunities and gain a competitive advantage.
- Learning Chinese is an experience through which students can immerse themselves in a different culture. Chinese has a unique ideographic writing system, which provides visual comprehensibility.
- Knowledge of the written language opens up the culture of one of the world's oldest civilizations.
- The number of Mandarin speakers continues to grow and the Chinese language is an important language in business and diplomacy. Mandarin Chinese may soon be the most accepted second language in the world after English.
- Chinese is very different from English and other Western languages in grammar, sound, tones and writing styles. Learning Chinese helps give students a strong base for learning other Asian languages that are strongly influenced by Chinese words, pronunciation and grammatical structures.

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World Languages

French

Mandarin Chinese

Spanish

**Which Language
Would You Like to
Learn?**

World Languages—Which Language Would You Like to Learn?

FRENCH

- Be understood in 55 countries across five continents and by over 200 million people.
- French is the third most common language on the Internet. Connect with pen pals, visit foreign web-sites and find student exchange opportunities.
- Get a head start on learning other Romance languages like Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian.
- French is a melodious language with a relatively quick learning curve.
- Develop critical creative thinking and problem solving skills. French provides the base for more than 50% of the modern English vocabulary, which improves performance on standardized tests.
- Open the doors to art, music, fashion, food, architecture and literature.
- Discover a new appreciation for other cultures in countries that speak French: France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Monaco and many African nations.
- Use French to pursue studies in Francophone countries.
- Promote language diversity throughout the world.
- Be more competitive in the national and international job market in disciplines like business, medicine, aviation, law, transportation technologies, luxury goods, global and international distribution.
- French is the official working language of the UN, NATO, UNESCO, the International Olympic Committee, the European Union, the International Red Cross, and more!

Visit <http://www.fll.vt.edu/French/whyfrench.html> for interesting reasons to study French.

Source: www.aatf.org (accessed 2/15/2012)

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SPANISH

- Spanish is the most studied foreign language in the U.S.
- There are 350 million native Spanish speakers worldwide. Spanish is the 4th most commonly spoken language in the world.
- Communicate with Spanish-speaking people at home. The number of people of Hispanic descent in the US continues to increase. Spanish is used by some 35 million people, or around 10% of the US population.
- Enhance your travel experiences. Knowing the language and culture of the land you visit will give you insights into the people and culture that a non-Spanish speaker would never have access to.
- Use Spanish to improve your employment potential. Your extra skill in Spanish helps you to be more competitive in the job market.
- Improve your knowledge of your own language.
- Prepare for study abroad opportunities.
- Learning Spanish makes acquiring the next foreign language easier and helps develop a whole set of mental, social, and cultural skills.
- Gain access to Spanish art, music, literature and film in their original language.

Source: www.aatf.org (accessed 3/01/2012)



Students studying languages at CB have access to the Tell Me More© program in the school's technology center.