

South Mecklenburg High School International Language Academy

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International Language Academy Overview

In 2009, the Charlotte Mecklenburg School District established an International Language magnet program at South Mecklenburg High School.

There are currently 462 students enrolled in the International Language Academy at South Mecklenburg High School representing approximately 15% of the school's total enrollment.

The International Language Academy at South Mecklenburg High School offers study in French, German, Japanese, Spanish, and Chinese. In addition, students may elect to take online classes in Arabic, Latin, and Russian or other complimentary classes through North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) or approved universities offering online classes.

International Language Academy Faculty

There are 16 faculty members specially certified to teach in the South Mecklenburg High School International Language Academy.

International Language Academy Course of Study

The International Language Academy at South Mecklenburg High School is open to any student with a strong interest in world language study as long as the student meets specific district academic requirements and fulfills a number of world language class prerequisites.

At the high school level, magnet students are integrated into the comprehensive high school experience by taking companion classes in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades complimenting the accelerated course of study in honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes in the target language. Upon graduation, many former immersion students, who have completed the International Language Academy course of study, will have had an average of 12 years of language study.

Students with a more limited background in a language, or beginning a new language, have the opportunity to advance to, and sometimes exceed, the AP level in most language tracks while completing a seven-course sequence of study. In addition, the pursuit of dual languages taken concurrently, and inclusion of virtual coursework, may also qualify a student for satisfactory completion of the seven-course requirement.

International Language Academy Graduation Requirements

All students must meet the general district graduation requirements. (See Attached South Mecklenburg High School Profile for details.)

In addition, to successfully graduate from the International Language Academy, a student is required to take seven (7) high school elective courses in the target language and/or other magnet-approved courses. It is expected that students will complete a primary language through at least the first AP course in the sequence, typically Level V, with the exception of Japanese. A student who wishes to pursue a second world language sequence must begin with the first level of the additional language within a time frame such that the student will successfully complete at least Honors level III by the end of the student's senior year and may do this concurrently with the successful completion of the primary target language course sequence.

International Language Academy Extracurricular

World Language extracurricular opportunities are open to all South Mecklenburg students. International Language Academy students are particularly sought out due to those students' strong interest in international cultures and global issues and their advanced language skills. Opportunities for hosting foreign exchange students and study abroad opportunities are made available to all South Mecklenburg students. Internships at local foreign-owned companies are posted, as are connections with local international groups. Language Academy high school students also participate in a tutoring and mentoring program for K-8 language academy students within the district.