Learning a Second Language

This page outlines the options available for students who are interested in learning a second language through the Innovations division (5-12).

Online Courses

These courses begins at Grade 5 and continues through Grade 12 using curriculum written and developed by our own HCOS language department. Students beginning a second language later than grade 5 with no background learning or experience are encouraged to enrol in their grade level course and to then contact the course teacher to discuss any additional planning needed. For students beginning a second language in grade 10 or later, the introductory grade 11 level courses are specifically designed to bring students to a grade 11 readiness level in one course, so they can then be successful in the grade 11 language course.

These courses are highly recommended and each one is broken down into 3 main units, with 10 lessons in each unit. Courses include learning organized around themes (for example, travel, household items, colours, etc) and students also complete a book study appropriate to the language level. Throughout these courses, students will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information using complete sentences both orally and in writing, use a range of strategies to support communication, and explore cultural practices and traditions in various Hispanic regions, and their role in identity. Students will enjoy engaging and interactive learning activities as they learn how to express themselves and talk about the world around them in Spanish.

Individualized

This course option is designed for students who have some familiarity with the second language they wish to study and also have regular opportunity to practice speaking the language in their local context. The individualized teacher meets with the family over video chat to create an SLP and they typically turn in learning portfolios at each progress reporting interval. While students must meet content standards for the BC curriculum, families work with the course teacher to integrate the curriculum or programs they prefer and there is more flexibility with cultural projects as well. The course teacher will also suggest supplementary activities so the student fully meets the course requirements. Please contact your academic advisor to learn which second languages have an individualized option as availability is dependent on our current teacher loads and experience.

An individualized course may be a good fit when:

- Students work well independently or have a private tutor
- Students live in another native-speaking (Spanish-Speaking, French-speaking, etc.) country or community
- Students are participating in a conversation class or learning group in their area
- Students speak at home, but want to focus more on reading/writing/grammar

- Students have access to community/family/external resources in the target language
- Students have a very specific reason for wanting to learn the language (going into a public services field, preparing for missions in another country, etc.)

If you have any questions, please contact, Assistant Director of Innovations, Sherie Seddon.

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