

Alexandria Township's World Language Curriculum Philosophy Statement

Developed by Sean Quinn, Jane Muzyka, Jennifer Yonney, and Brian Moore

The vision for World Languages in Alexandria Township is to help all students reach their highest potential in the ability to engage in meaningful, authentic communication in a foreign language, while also gaining an understanding and appreciation of the people and cultures with which that language is closely associated.

To achieve this vision, the curriculum in World Languages must assist in creating a classroom environment that promotes a positive attitude towards the acquisition of a second language in the learner. Students will learn in an atmosphere that engages them and addresses their various learning styles to encourage consistent participation. Classroom teachers will seek, via sound methodology, to provide an environment in which emergent speakers will feel comfortable taking risks and experimenting with language, thereby facilitating students' fluency and creativity. While grammatical rules and structural accuracy of the language will certainly be taught explicitly at times, especially in the older grades (6-8), it will not be at the expense of developing fluency. The balance of fluency and accuracy will be at the vanguard of our priorities. World Language students will be asked to use the language in simulated authentic situations, in which they will be able to understand the true value of communicating in a language other than their native one, rather than just in theory.

We will know we have achieved this vision for curriculum in World Language when all students in the program are communicating in various forms to the best of their individual ability, as well as demonstrating a clear understanding of the countries, peoples, and cultures related to the language of study.