



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Middle School World Languages

May 29, 2025



Alignment with Strategic Plan 2027

SP2027 Goal Area #1: Effective and consistent instructional practices that meet the needs of all students

Outcomes

- Provide an overview of the middle school world languages elective offerings
- Provide an update of the current work being done
- Provide an update on considerations for our work and recommendations



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Background

Background

- Request from parent to expand World Language elective offerings at middle school
 - Allows opportunities for students to take advanced language courses at the high school
 - Staff met with parents
 - Parent presentation at the BOT meeting in November 2024
 - Staff started work to explore options for expanding the World Language elective offerings

Neighboring School District World Language Offerings

- Los Altos School District offers French, Spanish, and Mandarin for 7th and 8th graders
- Palo Alto Unified School District offers French, Spanish, Japanese, and German 1A that is offered at one middle school
- Cupertino Unified School District offers French and Spanish
- Sunnyvale School District offers Spanish
- Both Los Altos and Palo Alto require at least 24 students to pre-enroll as a prerequisite to offering the course

Spanish Elective at Middle Schools

- Multiple levels of Spanish elective offered at both middle schools
- Students with 2 years of Spanish at middle school can take Spanish 2 or 2H at the high school level
- Curriculum used: Descubre
 - Aligned with curriculum used by Mountain View Los Altos High School District for their core Spanish language class offerings
 - 2013-14 was the first year we purchased Descubre for MVWSD implementation
 - Curriculum was never formally adopted by Board of Trustees

Curriculum

- Curriculum adoptions are usually a year long process
- Best practice for district wide adoptions for core subjects (ELA, math etc) must include teachers, administrators and parents and materials pilots
- For smaller adoptions, like world language curriculum, which only impacts a few teachers, the District can determine the process and rationale per guidance from the Santa Clara County Office of Education
 - main requirement is that teachers are involved in some way in the selection process
- This is similar to the process the District followed in 2013-14 as the District relied on the expertise of the high school District to select it's Spanish Curriculum



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What has been done so far?

Elective Interest Student Survey

- Elective Interest Survey conducted in January 2025 to gauge interest in expanding World Languages
 - Surveyed current 5th, 6th, 7th graders
 - Survey asked students to indicate their interest level in World Language French, Mandarin, and also included an open ended question on any other topics of interest

Elective Interest Student Survey Results

Very Interested in...	Crittenden	Graham	District Total
French	100	133	233
Mandarin	78	104	182
Spanish	149	246	395
Other: German	3	3	6
Japanese	5	6	11
Dutch	0	1	1
Korean	1	1	2
Polish	0	1	1
Ukrainian	0	1	1
Russian	0	1	1
Arabic	0	1	1

Current Middle School World Language Offerings 2024-25

	Crittenden	Graham	District Total
Spanish I Elective	84	59	143
Spanish II Elective	51	58	109
Spanish III Elective	18	56	74
History/ Social Studies Core (taught in Spanish)	Not offered	6th - 35 7th - 19 8th - 24	78

2025-26 Elective Selection

- Rising 6th - 8th graders provided their preferred elective choices for upcoming school year (March 31 - April 18)
- Middle schools do their best to accommodate students' preferred elective choices.
- As middle schools work on building schedules for the year, if an elective requires auditions, that elective takes preference over other elective choices in a students' schedule.

World Language Elective Selection Sign-up Results

Crittenden Middle School

French I	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total	# of Sectionsç
6th Grade	5	7	5	17	less than 2 sections (less than 0.5 FTE)
7th Grade	5	7	12	16	
8th Grade	6	10	14	21	
Mandarin I	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total	# of Sectionsç
6th Grade	4	5	9	18	1 section
7th Grade	1	4	2	7	
8th Grade	1	1	3	5	

World Language Elective Selection

Sign-up Results

Crittenden Middle School

Spanish I	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total
6th Grade	12	12	23	47
7th Grade	9	11	7	27

Spanish II	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total
6th Grade	2	4	1	7
7th Grade	12	17	9	38
8th Grade	6	7	7	20

Spanish III	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total
7h Grade	2	3	3	8
8th Grade	6	16	9	31

World Language Elective Selection Sign-up Results

Graham Middle School

French I	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total	# of Sectionsç
6th Grade	1	8	8	17	less than 2 sections((less than 0.5 FTE)
7th Grade	3	3	12	18	
8th Grade	5	5	13	23	
Mandarin I	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total	# of Sectionsç
6th Grade	3	2	0	5	1 section
7th Grade	2	7	4	13	
8th Grade	3	1	5	9	

World Language Elective Selection

Sign-up Results

Graham Middle School

Spanish I	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total
6th Grade	16	19	25	60
7th Grade	11	11	9	31

Spanish II	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total
6th Grade	3	2	4	9
7th Grade	10	11	6	27
8th Grade	20	15	8	43

Spanish III	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Total
6h Grade	7	7	4	18
7th Grade	12	10	14	36
8th Grade	19	14	12	45

Spanish History/Social Studies Course Sign-up Results

Graham Middle School

	Current 2024-25	Preliminary 2025-26 (based on survey results)
6th Grade	35	23
7th Grade	19	10
8th Grade	24	11

What's Needed to Expand World Language Offerings?

- To build a stronger biliteracy pathway for students, alignment with the high school district is necessary
- Based on student interest and enrollment, we need to decide which world languages to offer
- Decide on curriculum to be used for the language offerings
- Hire appropriately credentialed teachers



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Considerations

Considerations

- MVWSD wants students to have access to multiple language options in middle school
- Depending on student interest, hiring could be challenging
- The cascading schedule presents a challenge if one teacher is teaching a 1-2 sections at each site
- In order to be compliant with Williams, materials must be available to students within the first 20 days of school
 - Curriculum for any new language must be adopted the year prior making alignment with the high school and hiring early necessary



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Recommendation

Recommendation for 2025-26

- Expand one additional world language offering for 2026-27 school year
- Hire an appropriately credentialed teacher for the course
- Adopt the same curriculum used in MVLA, with teacher input, to ensure consistency in instruction for students transitioning to higher levels of language instruction
- Formally adopt Descubre, on June 12, as the District's primary Spanish language curriculum which is currently used in MVLA

Next Steps

- Middle School Administrative teams continue work on developing student schedules for 2025-26 school year
- Work with the MVLA school district staff to build a pathway for expanded world language courses
- Survey middle school students in Fall 2026-27 to know which world language they are most interested in