

What are the reasons to take more than 2 years of a foreign language?

- Most colleges require 2 or more years of the same language for admission
- Score higher on standardized tests
- Some schools offer college credit by testing out of courses which saves you \$\$!
- Be more competitive for admissions and scholarships -(showing commitment by taking an elective honors course)
- Language classes at OTHS are FREE and will help with future FL courses
- Be better prepared for foreign language requirements for your major
- Be placed in a higher level course in college
- Prepare for the AP® Exam and Seal of Biliteracy Test

Be sure to enroll as a **Freshman** in Level 1 classes at Milburn to reap all of the benefits of our 4 year program! Some benefits are Honors and AP classes for a weighted GPA!

Want to....

- improve your English grammar?
 - improve English vocabulary?
 - increase your public speaking skills?
 - increase ACT and SAT scores?
 - improve your memory?
 - expand the connections in your brain?
 - improve your self-discipline?
 - improve your self-esteem?
- Study a Foreign Language!!**

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

FRENCH ~ GERMAN ~ SPANISH

MILBURN CAMPUS OFFERS LEVEL 1 OF FRENCH, GERMAN, & SPANISH
ALL LANGUAGES OFFER 4 YEARS OF STUDY
LEVEL 3 ~ HONORS DESIGNATED COURSES & WEIGHTED GPA
LEVEL 4 ~ AP® (ADVANCED PLACEMENT) COURSES & WEIGHTED GPA

Libby Magee
Department Chair
mageel@oths.us
618-632-3507 x229

ISBE Seal of Biliteracy

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school district, under the authorization of the Illinois State Board of Education, in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in two or more languages (ex: English and German) by high school graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy is a gold seal that appears on the-diploma of the graduating senior, is noted on the transcript, and is validation of superior performance, utilizing a standardized norm, which can be used for future employers and for college admissions.

How is biliterate different from bilingual?

A person who is bilingual can fluently speak two languages. A person who is biliterate can speak, read, listen, and write proficiently in two languages.

Over the past three years, nearly 300 OTHS students have earned the Commendation toward Biliteracy and over 30 students have earned the Seal of Biliteracy. Libby Magee, OTHS World Language Department chair, says that she is “very proud of these students and her department”. She stated, “We are beyond impressed with the high level of proficiency of these students, especially since 75% of the recipients were only in the 3rd year of the language. To be measured according to a national standard and have 95% of the students who tested earn the commendation and seal is extremely difficult and impressive. We have amazing students and our teachers work hard to be sure that the students are engaged in the second language as much as possible. We know this will give the students an edge when applying to college and for scholarships, and we hope it will bring them many opportunities in the future.”

Which Language Should I Study?

The answer to this question depends on your personal goals, but whether you think of languages primarily for career enhancement or for personal, cultural, and intellectual enrichment, **any language is a rewarding choice.**

If your objective is international business, you can find out which countries are now or may become trading partners of the United States and Canada. If you want adventure, you could pick a language from a part of the world where you would like to travel. Or if you want to go back to your roots, you could learn about your grandparents or their parents by acquiring or adding to your knowledge of their language, their culture, and their world. Every language has something to say to you, and you have something to say in every language.

The benefits of taking a foreign language are many, no matter which language you choose.