

## Foreign Language FAQs 2011-1012

### **1. Is ASL accepted at colleges?**

YES! The State of Ohio recognizes ASL as a foreign language; and subsequently any public college in Ohio accepts ASL as a foreign language if a language requirement is needed. Often times, private schools will also accept it; but ask undergraduate admissions for clarification.

### **2. Who/when can a child test out of a level of foreign language?**

ALL foreign language placement tests will be given to students on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the high school. Only native speakers, incoming students, or students recommended by a teacher may sign up to test out of one level. Students must receive an 85% on the placement test, which includes speaking, listening comprehension, writing, grammar and vocabulary, to test out of that particular level.

### **3. How can I close the gap between the A and B sections of a foreign language?**

The Academic Resource Room on the front page of Edline was designed specifically to bridge the gap for students taking both the A and B sections of a foreign language, non-consecutively. Students have access to all of the activities and resources to practice at home before going on to the B section of the class. This resource is also very useful for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders who completed 1A Spanish in eighth grade and need a “refresher” over the summer. On another note, ALL foreign language assessments are common. That means that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders taking Spanish 1A are taking the same tests and final exams as their counterparts in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Any student who successfully completed 1A in 8<sup>th</sup> grade should be ready for 1B as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at MHS.

### **4. After two years of a language, could/should my child take another language?**

Yes and no. If the child is excelling in one language, the recommendation is that he/she continue that language to the highest level offered. There are, too, many opportunities to study a second language. A student who takes Spanish IA in 8<sup>th</sup> grade can actually complete 2 years of the language by the end of freshman year, allowing him/her to study a second language for three consecutive years. Many students also opt to pick up a second language and study both on them simultaneously. Either way, they have completed one of the criteria for an honors diploma: three consecutive years of one foreign language, or two years of two languages.

**5. Do you have to take a foreign language to graduate? What are colleges looking for?**

While there is no graduation requirement for foreign language, most colleges, both public and private, look for students who have completed three consecutive years of one language, or two years of two different languages (totaling four years of instruction).