

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL – FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Our foreign language classes are all based on the following concepts. The examples of “what students might do” are merely examples and would vary according to the skills and topics of each level.

I. COMMUNICATION SKILLS – Interpersonal (talking & writing to another person):

Students will talk and write in the target language to provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and give opinions.

An example of what students might do:

Students will use the target language to express, support and clarify ideas on a variety of topics.

Task:

Students will:

1. identify a topic of interest
2. prepare a series of prompts or questions that highlight the topic
3. participate in discussions in the target language focused on the topic

II. COMMUNICATION SKILLS – INTERPRETIVE (reading & listening): Students will understand when they read and listen to the target language on a variety of topics.

An example of what students might do:

Students will understand the main ideas and significant details of level-appropriate oral and written materials in the target language.

Task:

Students will:

1. read or listen to a passage in the target language
2. identify the main idea and significant details
3. present the information either orally or in writing

III. COMMUNICATION SKILLS – PRESENTATIONAL (presenting to someone else):

Students will talk and write information and ideas to different groups of people on a variety of topics in the target language.

An example of what students might do:

Students will present orally or in writing on a variety of topics in the target language.

Task:

Students will:

1. identify a topic related to a personal experience or a theme studied in class
2. prepare and research the topic, if necessary
3. write or tell about this topic

IV. CULTURE: Students will learn about the culture of countries where the target language is spoken and prove they know it.

An example of what students might do:

Students will analyze, discuss, compare and contrast perspectives associated with a cultural practice in a given country with their own.

Task:

Students will:

1. select a cultural topic
2. identify the practices and perspectives associated with the topic
3. compare and contrast the practices and perspectives of this topic to a similar topic in their own culture
4. prepare a summary of their work

V. CONNECTIONS (to other subjects): Students will use authentic materials in the target language to learn about other school subjects.

An example of what students might do:

Students will understand level-appropriate articles or video segments in the target language on topics from other school subjects, such as social studies, fine arts or science.

Task:

Students will:

1. view or read authentic material in the target language
2. analyze the information
3. prepare ideas for presentation or discussion
4. share their findings

VI. COMPARISONS (to own language & culture): Students will learn about their language and culture through the study of the target language and culture.

Examples of what students might do:

Students will demonstrate an awareness of idiomatic phrases and linguistic expressions and realize that there is not a word-for-word correspondence between the target language and English.

Task A:

Students will:

1. identify several linguistic expressions or idiomatic phrases
2. provide literal and non-literal translations
3. correctly use the expressions in a written or spoken task

Students will compare American cultural practices and/or products with those of cultures of countries where the target language is spoken.

Task B:

Students will:

1. identify a cultural product, perspective or practice
2. compare and contrast with a similar American product, perspective or practice
3. recognize, discuss and evaluate the advantages of both cultural practices

VII. COMMUNITY (how can this be used in & out of school): Students will use the target language both within and beyond the school setting.

An example of what students might do:

Students will read books, magazines and newspapers, watch films or videos, or listen to music from the various regions around the world.

Task:

Students will:

1. choose a written, aural or visual work
2. analyze and reflect on the selection
3. present an analysis