

## Statement of Philosophy for World Language

Language and communication are the heart of the human experience. West Jefferson Hills School District, must educate students who are equipped linguistically and culturally to communicate successfully in American Society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which all students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other Language, modern or classical. Children who come to school from Non-English speaking backgrounds should also have opportunities to develop further proficiencies in their first language.

Supporting this vision are three assumptions about language and culture, learners of language and culture, and language and culture education.

Competence in more than one language and culture enables people to:

- Communicate with other people in other cultures in a variety of settings
- Look beyond their customary borders
- Develop insight into their own language and culture
- Act with greater awareness of self, of other cultures, and their own relationship to those cultures
- Gain direct access to additional bodies of knowledge
- Participate more fully in the global community and marketplace

All students can be successful language and culture learners, and they:

- Must have access to language and culture study that is integrated into the
- Entire school experience
- Benefit from the development and maintenance of proficiency in more than
- One language
- Learn in a variety of ways and settings
- Acquire proficiency at varied rates

Language and culture education is part of the core curriculum, and it:

- Is tied to program models that incorporate effective strategies, assessment procedures, and technologies
- Reflects evolving standards at the national, state, and local levels
- Develops and enhances basic communication skills and higher order thinking skills

The World Language Department will encourage students to become motivated, Enthusiastic learners in all phases of instruction. This will be accomplished by incorporating:

- A communication based curriculum
- Contextualized learning
- Learner centered instruction
- Cooperative learning
- A developmental approach to grammar
- A contextualized approach to vocabulary
- An integrated, participatory approach to culture