

Foreign Languages

The Massachusetts Foreign Languages Curriculum Framework sets the expectation that all students in the Commonwealth's public schools will read, write and understand at least one language in addition to English at a high level of proficiency by the time they graduate from high school. Students studying modern languages should also be able to converse in the language they are studying. In order to achieve the goal of reading, writing and conversing fluently in another language, the framework recommends that students begin their language studies in the elementary grades, and continue to study one or more languages throughout middle and high school.



HARRY LEE COLE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(Grades: K-2)
(978) 887-2856

**BOXFORD
MASSACHUSETTS**

Foreign Languages



Cole School
FAQs

FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS
SERIES

Foreign Languages



FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT COLE SCHOOL

*As a result of the
work of a Site*

Council subcommittee, a foreign language program was introduced to the students of the first and second grades in January 1998. Lessons are provided once a week for a 15 to 20 minute period. Conversational Spanish is the focus of the class. Lesson topics include but are not limited to: greetings, days of the week, clothing, people in school, body parts, phone numbers and addresses.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CORE CONCEPTS

■ APPRECIATION

The acquisition of another language permanently enriches and enlarges students' appreciation and understanding of themselves and of others.

■ GLOBAL THINKING

Mastery of a foreign language teaches students about the nature of all languages and expands their vision of the world and their personal insight into human conduct and communities.

■ IMPROVES SKILLS

Study of a foreign language improves students' writing, reading and conversing skills which may enhance student performance across the curriculum.

■ BEGIN EARLY

Second language instruction is best begun between the ages of 3 and 7 when the ear and brain are most receptive to the nuances of language. Just as music enhances brain synapse connections, language development at early ages correlates well with improved cognitive development and basic skills performance.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

■ LEARNING

All students should be able to read, write, and understand at least one language in addition to English at a high level of proficiency by the time they complete high school. Students of modern languages should be able to converse in the foreign languages they are studying.

■ LIFE-LONG JOURNEY

Language acquisition is a life-long process. For this reason, foreign language programs should be in elementary school and continue beyond grade twelve.

■ CURRICULUM LINK

Effective foreign language programs integrate the study of language with the study of culture, which includes daily life, history, and literature, as well as both visual and performance arts. In this way, foreign language programs create natural links to all other disciplines.