Requirements: 3 credits of one language or 2 credits of two languages
Chair: Jaime Estrada
Although three credits are required for graduation, many students study language all four years. Student placement recommendations are made with the consideration of individual learning style, skill development, and level of interest. Student placement in the various programs is based upon performance in the current course (for returning Maret students) or on placement tests and data in the admissions files (for students new to Maret).

CLASSICS
The study of Latin offers a broad perspective of Western civilization that enriches and inspires our experience of the present. Students of Latin have the unique opportunity to examine the language, culture, and ideas of some of the earliest architects of Western civilization and to consider their influence on our own language, culture, literature, and philosophy. The learning of ancient languages helps cultivate such mental processes as alertness, attention to detail, memory, logic, and critical reasoning. The Latin courses in this program endeavor to elicit an appreciation of the subtlety and power of language. Students will learn to analyze ancient prose and poetry with a variety of literary and linguistic techniques and thereby improve their abilities to read, write, and think critically.

Intermediate Latin
Intermediate Latin students prepare to read original Latin texts by expanding their knowledge of Latin vocabulary, grammar, and idiom while honing their reading skills. They read stories of increasing difficulty set in Britain and Rome during the Flavian dynasty of the first century C.E. Through readings and grammar lessons, students master the fundamentals of Latin grammar while encountering the nuances of more complex syntactical structure. Their readings in Latin are supplemented by translations of contemporary Roman authors, lectures, films and projects in order to increase the students’ familiarity with Roman culture, institutions, and history.

Survey of Latin Literature
This is an accelerated course in which students complete mastery of all basic Latin grammar and make the transition from textbook Latin to authentic Roman literature.

Advanced Latin Literature
In this course, students expand their classical repertoire by reading substantial prose and poetry passages by a number of authors in several genres: history (Julius Caesar); oratory (Cicero); short poems and invective (Catullus); and mythological tales in their original form (Ovid). In addition to the Latin readings, students consider the why and how of a translator’s work as they analyze contemporary translations of several of the works whose originals they study. Students look at authors’ style, diction, use of rhetorical devices, metrical patterns and overall approach as they read each passage and consider the political, historical and cultural milieu in which each was composed. This course can be taken as either a pre-Vergil or a post-Vergil class.

Vergil & Caesar
Through an intensive study of Vergil’s epic poem, The Aeneid, students come to appreciate poetic modes of expression, including use of imagery, figures of speech, sound, and metrical devices. Students learn about the life, historical context, and poetic tradition of Rome’s most influential poet. As students read selections of The Aeneid, they accomplish these course objectives: acquire the ability to read Latin poetry in its original form; develop a familiarity with the lives, historical context, and poetic tradition of the Augustan Age; acquire an appreciation of the characteristic features of
**Vergil's modes of expression; practice discussing orally and in written form particular motifs or general themes suggested by the passages studied; and learn to mark the scansion of the poems selected for study. Students who demonstrate superior mastery of these skills may take the Vergil Advanced Placement Exam in May.**

**Vergil’s Aeneid: A Critical Analysis of the Original Text (MSON)**  
*Fall Semester; Prerequisites include four years of Latin (may take 4th year concurrently), with two years concentrated on reading literature.*

The purpose of this course is to learn the skill, beauty, and artistry of Vergil’s Aeneid, using a method known as SWIMTAG. SWIMTAG looks at various literary devices authors use to convey meaning. Although fewer lines coming mostly from Book One will be assigned, the analysis of these lines will take considerable time. An emphasis on reading in the meter will be required. Accurate translations of the text are expected and translations by other authors will be analyzed and compared to see how each translation captures the essence of the Latin language. Critical essays from various classicists will be read, with each student being responsible for conducting an online discussion of the essay.

**Ancient Greek (MSON)**  
This is a beginning course for students who have not studied ancient Greek before or whose background in Greek is not sufficient for more advanced work. Students proceed through a study of grammar and vocabulary to the reading and writing of sentences and short narratives in the language of Athens of the fifth century B.C.E. Selected topics in Greek history and art are also considered.

**MODERN LANGUAGES**

The overall goals for students in Modern Languages courses are to develop effective, communicative skills and to develop a general understanding of some of the cultures that speak those languages. More specifically, students should be able to understand the language when spoken at a normal speed on a topic within the range of the student’s experience; to communicate efficiently with a native speaker on a topic within the range of the student’s experience; to write using authentic patterns of the language and appropriate registers of speech; and to read materials on general-interest topics with direct understanding, without recourse to translation or the use of a dictionary. In addition, the advanced level courses provide the student with an introduction and exploration of literary analysis in a foreign language. For students who wish to study abroad, we offer a Spanish summer program in Nicaragua, a Chinese program in Taiwan, and a French program in France.

**CHINESE**

**Chinese 1: Elementary Chinese**

This course, which requires no previous background in Chinese, introduces students to Mandarin Chinese using the Pinyin system of Romanization and simplified characters. Students learn standard Mandarin pronunciation, tones, and basic grammatical structures through oral/aural and written exercises. Substantial use of audiotapes and Internet-based materials is required. Supplementary units on Chinese culture and customs complement the language instruction.

**Chinese 2: Elementary Chinese**

Students continue the work they began in Chinese I and expand their foundation as the acquisition of characters accelerates. In addition, this course presents further emphasis on Mandarin pronunciation and tones. The course also involves consistent review of grammatical structures. Supplementary units on Chinese culture and customs complement the language instruction.

**Chinese 3: Intermediate Chinese**

Students who have successfully completed Chinese II continue to enlarge their vocabulary, study and review grammar, and gain increased fluency through classroom activities and the reading and discussion of simple texts and articles. There is increased emphasis on writing, with frequent, short writing assignments such as reports and correspondence. Chinese history and culture remain an integral part of the course, with readings and assignments based on those subjects.
Chinese 4: Advanced Intermediate Chinese
Students who have successfully completed Chinese III will continue to study grammar and increase their vocabulary via intermediate textbook readings and more complex authentic materials, including articles on current social topics, a play and short stories. They will work on their listening comprehension skills and their understanding of Chinese culture by watching a Chinese television series. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions based on the readings and television series and to prepare writing assignments. Thus, this course will require a significant commitment to preparation outside of class. Also outside of class, students may have an opportunity to use their language skills to help recently arrived immigrants from China navigate life in their new community.

Chinese 5: Language and Literature (MSON)
Grades 11–12
Prerequisite: Completion of Chinese 4
Chinese 5 is designed for intermediate level Chinese learners to further improve their overall proficiency in the four skills of the target language. This college-level course emphasizes applying Chinese language and cultural knowledge in real-world problem-solving. It will explore the knowledge and skills of effective communication in a modern contextual Chinese language setting. Authentic resources include news and articles, movies and TV shows, essays and speeches, daily scenes and conflicts, social cues and popular proverbs. A variety of advanced tech tools and constructive activities focusing on discussion and argumentation will enhance students’ social skills and cultural understanding. This course is conducted in Chinese.
Texts:
Scenario Chinese I, 中国百姓身边的故事, Liu YueHua (World Publishing Corporation, 2008)
Supplementary texts:
Travel in Chinese, 旅游汉语, (Foreign Language Teaching & Research Press)
Home With Kids (Textbook with Videos), 家有儿女, Liu LiXin, Deng Fang

French

French 2
This course is designed to consolidate a thorough understanding of standard French grammar. Students develop their vocabulary and communicative competence in French through oral and written reports, situational simulations, and grammatical exercises. They also develop and refine their critical skills through activities that encourage connecting, comparing, and contrasting a wide variety of concepts.

French 3
The objective of this course is to consolidate and integrate high-intermediate second language skills. Students are expected to develop significant accuracy in their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will discuss short stories, magazine articles, video news clips and Internet sources as well as engage in an intensive review of grammar. Students will be introduced to contemporary topics in French culture. Students will be provided with a sound linguistic base for further study of advanced concepts. This course provides opportunities for enjoyment, creativity and intellectual stimulation.

French 4
This course is meant to anchor advanced French skills. It offers an overview of the intricacies of French grammar, providing extensive oral and written practice to improve students’ accuracy as well as their overall understanding of the structure of the language. In addition, students will read an extensive selection of literary and journalistic texts to be used as both models for compositions, which will focus on stylistic skills and sophistication, and as the basis for literary analysis in French. Writing assignments will include compositions and critical essays.

Advanced French Grammar
The objective of this 10th grade course is to provide a thorough consolidation and an integration of high-intermediate skills. In addition to completing an extensive grammar review, students are expected to develop significant accuracy in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Materials to
be used include audio-visual reports, documentaries, and newspaper articles covering current events in various countries. Students are expected to participate extensively in the class discussions and to prepare a number of special presentations.

**Francophone Cultures**
The objective of this 11th grade course is to develop high proficiency in speaking, reading, listening and writing. Students work to improve their ability to understand spoken French in various contexts and express themselves coherently, resourcefully, and with reasonable fluency and accuracy. They also develop a sufficiently ample vocabulary to be able to read newspapers, magazine articles and literary texts. This course also emphasizes the presentation and better understanding of the civilizations and cultures of the Francophone world. In addition, students will be prepared to take the French Language Advanced Placement exam.

**Modern French Literature**
The objective of this course is to introduce students to French literature and to literary criticism in a foreign language. Students develop their proficiency in fundamental literary analysis in order to read and understand prose and verse of moderate difficulty and mature content. Students are expected to analyze the themes and styles that appear in the texts and to express critical opinions in correct oral and written French.

*Texts:*
- Vian, *Les Fourmis*
- Sartre, *Huis-Clos*
- Anouilh, *Antigone*
- Ionesco, *La Leçon*
- Maupassant, *Le Horla*
- Voltaire, *Candide*
- Saint-Exupéry, *Le Petit Prince*
- Beaudelaire, *Les Fleurs du Mal*
- Rimbaud, *Une Saison en Enfer*
- Apollinaire, *Alcools*

*Viewings:*
- *La Reine Margot*

*Summer Reading:*
- Camus, *The Plague*

**SPANISH**

**Spanish 1**
The aim of this course is to provide students with knowledge of fundamental spoken and written Spanish through active and intensive engagement in classroom discussions conducted almost exclusively in the target language. The Descubre textbook and multi-media program is used in conjunction with other audio-visual materials. The reading of short stories and simple magazine articles as well as writing exercises on topical subjects complement this course.

**Spanish 2**
This course, a continuation of work begun in Spanish 1, aims to elevate the student’s mastery of the oral and written language. A main objective of this course is to familiarize students with issues of current interest in the Hispanic world. Reading and writing activities are of a more complex and sophisticated language. The course also involves consistent review, verb formation and use, and word-building. This course includes a comprehensive multimedia program.

**Spanish 3**
The objective of this course is to consolidate and integrate high-intermediate second language skills. Students are expected to develop significant accuracy in their reading, writing, and speaking skills. The course includes reading and discussion of short stories, magazine articles, video news clips and Internet sources as well as an intensive review of grammar. Students will be introduced to contemporary topics in Latin American culture.

**Spanish 4**
The specific objectives of this course are to consolidate a thorough understanding of standard Spanish grammar as an instrument for facilitating creativity and clarity of expressions, and to develop students’ writing skills in Spanish. Students complete extensive vocabulary testing, and they are expected to recall and apply the grammatical rules presented. In addition, students are introduced to Hispanic literature and study the fundamentals of advanced composition.
Survey of Hispanic Literature
The specific objective of this course is to encourage students to acquire comfort and fluency in a sophisticated and conceptual language level by completely immersing them in a fast-paced, Spanish-speaking environment. Students in this course are evaluated on their spontaneous participation, on their incorporation of new material, and on the fulfillment of extensive reading and writing. Students are expected to develop significant accuracy in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students read two novels, write well constructed essays on abstract topics, and complete an overview of Spanish and Latin American literature.

Spanish Conversation
The specific objective of this course is to intensify oral communications skills. The course presents students with real-life examples of a variety of situations in which they have to perform using realistic intonation, idiomatic expressions, and extensive new vocabulary. Students are involved in a diversity of drills that aim to trigger their imagination and sense of communication. Pronunciation skills and the ability to transfer and adapt material to specific situations in order to achieve oral proficiency are the focal points of this course.

Spanish in Film
The main objective of this course is to develop the student’s listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This is achieved through the examination of different issues of cultural and historical interest, as shown in Latin American and Spanish films. This course involves considerable and frequent writing in Spanish. In addition to analyzing and discussing the films shown in class, students read and write reviews, critiques, and essays.

Hispanic Cultures
This course uses the Advanced Placement Examination in Spanish Language curriculum in order to foster oral and written proficiency. Students significantly increase their vocabulary and strengthen their advanced grammar skills. Regular oral presentations and frequent essays help the student attain fluency. Readings include newspaper editorials and literary selections that include a variety of authors. At the end of this course, students may be invited to sit for the Advanced Placement Exam in Spanish Language.

Topics in Afro-Hispanic Cultures
The main objective of this intermediate-level Spanish course is to acquire Spanish proficiency through the exploration of the African diaspora and its cultural legacy in Spanish speaking America and the Caribbean. This course concentrates on contemporary topics. Students develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills by examining a variety of written, visual, and musical samples. This course emphasizes oral proficiency as a desirable learning outcome.

Hispanic Literature
In this twelfth grade course students will survey the Spanish-speaking world literary landscape from the “Siglo de Oro” to contemporary times, with an emphasis on short stories and poetry. Students will read such authors as Quevedo, Quiroga, Borges and García Márquez, among others. Students will become well-versed in literary analysis in a foreign language and will explore the various specificities of Spanish and Latin American narratives.

Comparative Literature
(Grades 11–12; can also be used as a humanities credit)
This course connects contemporary Spanish-speaking authors with international counterparts through a comparative study of their works by isolating and exploring common literary and philosophical concepts. Literary works will be grouped by theme and studied concurrently. The course is comprised of the following units which are illuminated through selected readings: tension between individual and society; narrative ambiguity; tension between individual and family; existential anguish; the nature of reality; the role of the concepts of zero and infinity in literature; and Cainism and friendship. Class discussions will be conducted in Spanish. Papers are written in Spanish. Works in Spanish are read in the original Spanish version.
Texts:
Borges, *Ficciones*
Camus, *The Plague*
García Marquez, *Crónica de una Muerte Anunciada*
García Marquez, *Ojos de Perro Azul*
Kafka, *The Trial*
Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
Unamuno, *Abel Sanchéz*
Unamuno, *Don Manuel Bueno Martir*

Viewings:
*Abre Los Ojos*
*Amadeus*

Summer Reading:
García Marquez, *Cien Años de Soledad*

OTHER LANGUAGES

Arabic One (MSON)
Grades 11–12
This course is an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic, the language of formal speech and most printed materials in the Arab-speaking world. Students will learn to read and write the Arabic alphabet and will develop beginning proficiency in the language. Through frequent oral and written drills, students will develop their basic communication skills.

Arabic Two (MSON)
Prerequisite: Completion of Arabic I
This course is a continuation of the introduction to Modern Standard Arabic, the language of formal speech and most printed materials in the Arab-speaking world. Students will learn to read and write the Arabic alphabet and will develop beginning proficiency in the language. Through frequent oral and written drills, students will develop their basic communication skills.

SUMMER ELECTIVES

Maret in Taiwan
Maret offers an intensive language immersion/Homestay program in Taipei for four weeks. Students live with a Chinese host family, study Mandarin, and participate in enrichment activities and excursions. Students attend language classes (typically 4-5 students/class) for twenty hours each week. During the afternoon they participate in excursions to cultural and historical sights in and around Taipei, including the National Palace Museum, Longshan Temple, the Chiang Kai-shek and Sun Yat-sen Memorials, Taipei 101, the Confucius Temple, and Yangmingshan. They enjoy cultural activities and enrichment classes in such traditional Chinese arts as calligraphy, martial arts, painting, paper cutting, music, and cooking. On weekends they take trips to famous sights such as Alishan, Taroko Gorge, and Hualien.

Maret in Spain
The goal of this program is language acquisition through linguistic and cultural immersion. During one month, Maret students live in a full-immersion environment, learning Spanish in context through daily life, interactive lessons and cultural experiences. The course is held in two renovated farmhouses near Burgos and Granada. The morning and evening lessons interact with the environment and setting. In addition, students learn the language through a series of activities and field trips during which they interact solely in Spanish. Such activities include cooking and pastry lessons, learning from local artisans such as cheese makers, potters, and olive growers, and hiking and other outdoor activities as well as numerous cultural field trips.

Maret in France
This is a month-long study of French in which students live in the homes of French families and attend school in Tours, France. Students often find the Maret in France program to be an extremely valuable experience for their French language as well as for their understanding of French culture. They return with great pride in their improved French-speaking ability and in having navigated the summer independently in a foreign country. Located in the heart of the Loire Valley, Tours provides a wealth of destinations for our field trips. Students share thoughts on their experiences and practice writing French through journal entries and interact in real life situations with families, in school, and in the community.
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL
LATIN SEQUENCE

Language placement for students is reassessed at the end of each academic year.
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL FRENCH SEQUENCE

Language placement for students is reassessed at the end of each academic year.

French 6th Grade

French 7th Grade

French 8th Grade

French 2

French 3

French 4

Advanced French Grammar

Francophone Culture

Modern French Literature
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL SPANISH SEQUENCE

Language placement for students is reassessed at the end of each academic year.

Middle School

- Spanish 5th Grade
- Spanish 6th Grade
- Spanish 7th Grade Beginner
- Spanish 7th Grade
- Spanish 8th Grade Beginner
- Spanish 8th Grade

Upper School

- Spanish 1
- Spanish 2
- Spanish 3
- Spanish 4
- Afro-Hispanic Cultures
- Spanish in Film
- Survey of Hispanic Literature
- Hispanic Literature
- Hispanic Culture
- Comparative Literature

Summer program: Maret in Spain
Typically students participate after ninth or tenth grade.