

**Modern Foreign Language Level I**

**Course Description**

Level I language courses focus on the development of students' communicative competence in the foreign language and their understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. Communicative competence is divided into three strands: speaking and writing as an interactive process in which students learn to communicate with another speaker of the language; reading and listening as a receptive process in which comprehension of texts in the foreign language is developed; and speaking and writing in a presentational context in which students are focused on organization of thoughts and awareness of their audience in delivering information. In Level I classes, the students learn to communicate in real-life contexts about topics that are meaningful to them. In order to develop the three areas of communicative competence, students are encouraged to use the foreign language as much as possible in all areas of study. Rather than isolating grammar in a separate strand, it is integrated into instruction according to the vocabulary and structures needed in the various situations in which students are required to function. Through the language learning process, students develop an understanding of how their own language is structured and how their own culture has unique aspects. An important component of language classes is the use of the language beyond the classroom in order to apply knowledge of the language in the real world. In many cases, this is accomplished through the integration of technology into the classroom. Technology is an important tool in accessing authentic information in the foreign language and in providing students the opportunity to interact with native speakers of the language.

	<i><b>National Standards for Foreign Language</b></i>
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> <i>Communicate in Languages Other Than English</i>	<b>Standard 1.1:</b> Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. <b>Standard 1.2:</b> Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. <b>Standard 1.3:</b> Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.
<b>CULTURES</b> <i>Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures</i>	<b>Standard 2.1:</b> Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied. <b>Standard 2.2:</b> Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.
<b>CONNECTIONS</b> <i>Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information</i>	<b>Standard 3.1:</b> Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language. <b>Standard 3.2:</b> Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.
<b>COMPARISONS</b> <i>Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture</i>	<b>Standard 4.1:</b> Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own. <b>Standard 4.2:</b> Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
<b>COMMUNITIES</b> <i>Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home &amp; Around the World</i>	<b>Standard 5.1:</b> Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting. <b>Standard 5.2:</b> Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

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Weeks				
<i>Communication</i>		<i>Culture</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Comparisons</i>
				<i>Communities</i>
<i>Essential Structures</i>		<i>Vocabulary Strands</i>	<i>Discrete Skills Assessments</i>	<i>Integrated Skills Assessments</i>

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