

Waivers for World Language Courses

What parents need to know

The prerequisite to advance to the next level in a world language class is 73%. Our goal is to have students placed in a course where they will have a successful language learning experience. The 73% prerequisite is intended to protect students who would have a high probability of failure from going on to a higher level...in other words, to do what experience tells us is in the best interest of the student.

Since learning a language is sequential each successive year builds upon the knowledge students have acquired the year before. Our experience shows that students who score below a 73% have a weak foundation which keeps them from being successful even if they are working very hard in the next level course.

Students who have a 70%-72% may need additional academic support that may not be provided by the school in order to succeed in the higher level course.

We strongly discourage the waiver for any student with an average below 70% because the student has too weak a knowledge base to build upon. Our experience shows that there is a high probability that the student will be unable to successfully complete the course. Many students end up dropping back down to the lower course part way through the year which can disrupt their entire schedule.

Students who are moving on to the next level with a waiver must first ***obtain a copy of the waiver form from their current language teacher***, get the appropriate signatures, and turn the form in to the high school counseling office. Students waiving into the next level are also encouraged to sign out a book over the summer to review the material they have only partially learned. Students need to bring a check for the cost of the book to leave as a deposit until the book is returned the week before the next school year starts so that the book is available to the next year's students.

To arrange to borrow a book, email jspicer@gvsd.org The World Language department web page also has links to activities that Great Valley teachers have found or have recommended to their classes.