

# MISD LOTE Language and Culture Syllabus

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**Vision:** We are a cohesive, diverse community providing engaging learning experiences for all.

**Mission:** We will provide engaging learning experiences so students can become effective communicators, quality contributors, and socially responsible citizens.

**Beliefs:**

- Partnerships between students, parents, community members, and staff are foundational to educational success.
- Positive school culture and a safe environment foster growth.
- Everyone has inherent value and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Learning is an active process requiring engaging tasks and engaging minds.
- Relevant and authentic experiences ignite continuous, deeper learning.
- Meaningful relationships enrich learning.
- Confidence fuels risk taking and higher achievement.

**McKinney ISD LOTE Mission Statement:**

McKinney ISD World Language Department is committed to inspire each student to become a life- long learner of languages and cultures while acquiring the skills needed to successfully and confidently communicate in the target language, to appreciate cultural diversity, and to develop into an active and positive contributor and citizen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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## Course Overview

McKinney ISD language classes will enable students to communicate in a foreign language. To achieve this overarching premise, all learning occurs based on the World- Readiness Standards for Learning Languages as defined by the national American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the TEKS for LOTE. Classes are designed around six themes: Global Challenges, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, Personal and Public Identities, Families and Communities and Beauty and Aesthetics. Based on these themes, language units are designed to communicate about and raise awareness for cultural products, practices and perspectives. Each unit has structural foundations to enable students to practice their language skills in all modes of communication through contextualized activities and the integration of a variety of authentic contexts based on interdisciplinary topics.

The following **World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages** are met in all units:

<http://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/World-ReadinessStandardsforLearningLanguages.pdf>

### ➤ **Communication**

Students communicate effectively in more than one language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes.

### ➤ **Cultures**

Students interact with cultural competence and understanding.

### ➤ **Connections**

Students connect with other disciplines and acquire information and diverse perspectives in order to use the language to function in academic and career- related situations.

### ➤ **Comparisons**

Students develop insight into the nature of language and culture in order to interact with cultural competence.

### ➤ **Communities**

Students communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

To access the TEKS for LOTE: The newly adopted TEKS for languages other than English (LOTE) can be found in Chapter 114 of the Texas Administrative Code, <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter114/ch114c.html>. These include a few revisions by the State Board of Education. Please scroll down to subchapter 114.31 to see the revised TEKS. They will be implemented beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.