



Dear Parents,

My name is Mrs. Jennifer Schunk and I am the French/Spanish teacher on the Phoenix Base. I am very excited about working with your child. I especially look forward to helping him/her discover new cultures while developing communication skills in another language.

My goal is to help every student develop a useful and important skill and to cultivate a better understanding, openness to, and appreciation of other cultures.

Please know that this is a two year course starting in 7th grade. There is a final exam at the end of 7th and at the end of 8th grade. Upon passing this course, a student will receive one high school credit. This allows the student to take French/Spanish Level 2 course in 9th grade. At least one credit in foreign language is required to graduate from high school.

Thank you in advance for your support and **please feel free to contact me at anytime.** The best way to do this is through e-mail, but you may also call me at the Middle School at 209-6220.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Schunk

PHILOSOPHY

Language is our connection to our community and to the world. Through language we identify the world around us, express our concerns and dreams, and share our experiences and ideas.

The ability to communicate in a second language provides a unique opportunity to gain access to other peoples and other cultures. In the interest of peace and economic, social, and political security in an increasingly interdependent world, it is important for every person to acquire the skills for communication and cross-cultural understanding.

In light of these considerations, the study of a second language should be an integral part of all students' educational experience. They all deserve the opportunity to study a second language in order to prepare themselves today for an informed and productive role in tomorrow's world community.

BENEFITS OF STUDYING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Sequential foreign language study yields many benefits:

Listening Skills - Foreign language study has been shown to enhance listening skills and memory, contributing a significant additional dimension to the concept of communication.

Reading Skills - In the area of language arts, students of second languages are thought to improve their reading comprehension in the native language and also score higher in reading achievement.

Higher Scores - During the past several years, data from the Admissions Testing Program of the College Board definitely show a positive correlation between SAT scores and the study of foreign languages.

Cultural Understanding - Students develop an understanding, openness to, and appreciation of other cultures.

Career Development - Learning a foreign language provides a competitive edge in career choices.