

Chelmsford Public Schools World Language Department
Course Proposal: Heritage Spanish
For 2022-23



What is a Heritage Spanish course?

This course is catered to native speakers of Spanish and/or students who identify as Hispanic/Latino/x. Many of these students are enrolled in Spanish classes in the World Language department. However, our Spanish classes are designed for students who are learning Spanish as a second language, not for students who already are familiar with the language.

A Heritage Spanish course will be taught by a native speaker and focus more on cultural studies in the Spanish-speaking world, literature, history, and identity. Native speakers have different needs than students who are learning Spanish as a second language and the goal of this course is to encourage them to learn about their own cultures and identity, as well as to improve their literacy skills in Spanish.

Who can take this course?

Students who are native speakers of Spanish and/or students who identify as Hispanic/Latino/x. There are currently about 100 students at CHS who fall in one or both of these categories.

Will this course count for 2 years of World Language credit?

Yes! We will offer two sections: one for freshman/sophomores, and one for juniors/seniors. If students begin their freshman year, they will be in a two-year cohort of that class. In other words, the curriculum will rotate every two years.

Is there student & parent interest in this?

Yes! Spanish teachers have been talking to their Hispanic students about this idea and getting their feedback, which has been very positive so far. In November, there was also a family survey sent out in English and Spanish that received positive feedback as well.