

Foreign Language

Mount Madonna School has a comprehensive program in Spanish language.

All students study Spanish for six years in grades 6-11, with the option to take AP Spanish Language and Culture junior year. The program emphasizes spoken and written communication with local and global Spanish speakers. Cultural learning and understanding is another program highlight.

Middle School Spanish (Grades 6-8)

Sixth grade students begin their study of Spanish language by learning greetings, introductions, titles of respect and words of courtesy. Students gain basic conversational skills, reading comprehension and basic oral comprehension. The middle school program fosters empathy for people of different cultures and communication skills. By eighth grade, students are expected to conjugate verbs in present and past tenses, and to develop the ability to step outside their comfort zone in conversations with other Spanish speakers. Students learn to appreciate the art, music, food, and traditions of Spanish-speaking communities locally and around the world. Courses are taught primarily in Spanish using the direct method. At the end of eighth grade, students will have completed a Spanish I level course. Additional resources with advanced written activities are available and utilized in the classroom for students who are Spanish speakers.

High School Spanish (Grades 9-11)

Starting in ninth grade (Spanish I) and over the course of the three required years of Spanish language learning, high school students will gain the ability to hold a deep conversation in Spanish that utilizes multiple verb tenses to express nuanced ideas. Students are expected to read and comprehend basic literature in Spanish by the end of grade 11. The program emphasizes current events and politics affecting Spanish-speaking people locally and globally. Students study Spanish speaking cultures and traditions around the world. Students will learn to utilize past tenses, adverbs, subjunctive tenses, present and past participles, future tense, and conditional tense in reading, writing, and speaking by the end of grade 10. In grade 11 students participate in Spanish IV with an AP Spanish Language and Culture option available to students. Additional resources with advanced written activities are available and utilized in the classroom for students who are Spanish speakers.