



# WORLD LANGUAGE GUIDE



BISHOP WATTERSON  
HIGH SCHOOL

## Department of World Languages

**Welcome! Bienvenido! Bienvenue!  
Benvenuto! Salve!**

Bishop Watterson High School offers four and five year language programs in Spanish, French, Italian and Latin. Classes develop the four competency areas of language learning:

- Reading comprehension
- Listening comprehension
- Speaking
- Writing

The Department of World Languages also nurtures an understanding and appreciation of the cultures of countries where the target language is spoken.

## Why Study World Languages?

*Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. —Acts 2:3-4*

Bishop Watterson High School is dedicated to providing an exemplary Catholic education, rooted in faith, and committed to excellence.

Catholic means “universal,” and we live in a global society. An **exemplary Catholic education** must provide both the means and the context for students to live and thrive in our world as respectful and responsible global citizens.

“Language learning provides students with greater opportunities to be part of a global community. It increases understanding and appreciation of different cultures and a greater awareness of peoples throughout the world.”

- Tina Maloney, World Languages Department Chair

All aspects of life at BWHS are **rooted in the Catholic faith**. Both Catholic scripture and tradition celebrate the feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gifted the apostles with the ability to share the Good News with people of all cultures. BWHS students follow the example of the apostles as they cultivate the ability to nurture friendships

and appreciate the cultures of friends from other walks of life.

The study of world languages is a major component of the **excellence** that is fostered at BWHS. Research shows that there are many benefits to the study of other languages. These benefits are both immediate and long-lasting, and lead to excellence in BWHS students.

## 7 Benefits of Learning a Second Language

*(From the Center for Applied Linguistics, [http://www.cal.org/earlylang/benefits/benefits\\_of\\_being\\_bilingual.html](http://www.cal.org/earlylang/benefits/benefits_of_being_bilingual.html))*

1. Has a positive effect on intellectual growth and enriches and enhances a child's mental development
2. Leaves students with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening
3. Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language
4. Gives a child the ability to communicate with people s/he would otherwise not have the chance to know
5. Opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries
6. Gives a student a head start in language requirements for college
7. Increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language is a real asset.





## How to Prepare

You will find that you will understand English grammar much better through your study of a second language.

**For your first year of study, it is important that you can recognize and discuss basic parts of speech, including:**

Nouns (as subject of the sentence, object of the verb, or object of the preposition)

Articles (definite and indefinite)

Subject Pronouns

Verbs in the infinitive

Verbs in the present tense

Adjectives

Adverbs

Prepositions

These parts of speech will be reviewed as part of the World Language curriculum. A little extra effort at home will make a big difference as you learn these parts of speech in a second language. **Make sure that you let your teachers know if you need extra help.**

To prepare for your first year of studies at BWHS, it is a great idea to review some basic grammatical topics. Here are some books that can help you in your review:

English Grammar for Students of French  
(ISBN-13: 978-0934034425)

English Grammar for Students of Italian  
(ISBN-13: 978-0934034401)

English Grammar for Students of Latin  
(ISBN-13: 978-0934034340)

English Grammar for Students of Spanish  
ISBN-13: 978-0934034302)

*The above titles are available online and are carried in the BWHS library.*

## What to Expect in Class

Class time and assignments will focus on each of the four competency areas of language learning:

Reading comprehension

Listening comprehension

Speaking

Writing

Each competency area is equally important and will receive equal attention.



It is important that, during class time, you participate fully by listening attentively, answering frequently, and speaking in the target language during group activities. It is especially important that, when class time is being dedicated to speaking and listening, you give those skills your utmost attention and focus.

There is considerable research that shows that longhand note-taking leads to better retention and long-term comprehension (<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>). Consider taking notes by hand, rather than with a laptop, to see better results.

## Study Tips

When learning a second language, it is important to think about **practicing** rather than simply **studying**. You would never try to take your driving test after simply studying a road manual, nor should you anticipate success in a second language if you don't actively practice each of the four competency areas of language learning.

Flashcards can be an excellent tool.

The website Quizlet.com takes flashcards to the next level. With Quizlet, you can create your own set of flashcards that will even generate a spelling test with audio.



When studying new vocabulary, it is important to think about both **recognition** and **production**.

**Recognition** means that you know what the new vocabulary word means in English when you see it or hear it.

You see the words: **una manzana** (Spanish)  
You know that it means: an apple

**Production** means that you can call on the word **manzana** when you want to use it.

You see a picture of an apple  
You can say: **una manzana**

To practice for both recognition and production, you should practice your flashcards or Quizlet in 2 ways: recognizing all of the words in the language you are studying and knowing their meanings in English, and producing on command the words in the language you are studying.

**And even better:** If your teacher asks you to list 10 words from the chapter you are learning, you can do so, and you can use them in complete sentences!



## Resources & Responsible Use

Your first resource is your teacher. Make sure to speak with your teacher when you need support, and try to approach him or her with a specific question or questions in mind.

Pay attention to your teacher and class syllabus. Each teacher will recommend materials, methods and opportunities to help you study. Take advantage of study groups and tutoring opportunities when they arise.

The best resource is a print bilingual dictionary or a website that behaves like a bilingual dictionary.

The best online resource is: [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com)

As will be discussed in class, it is important that you utilize an online dictionary, rather than an online translator. An online translator gives unreliable results, and is in violation of the school's Honor Code. **A good rule of thumb – to use an online resource correctly and responsibly, you should only look up one word at a time.**

### For example:

You wish to write the phrase 'A funny cat' in Italian.

You look up the word 'cat' and find the word: **gatto** (*m/s*), which tells you that the word **gatto** is a masculine and singular word.

As a student of Italian, it is your responsibility to know that an indefinite article, in Italian, precedes the noun, and must make agreement with the noun. Thus, you choose the correct indefinite article that agrees with the word **gatto**; your phrase now reads: **un gatto**.

You look up the word 'funny,' and you find the word: **buffo** (*adj*).

As a student of Italian, it is your responsibility to know that an adjective, in Italian, follows the noun, and must make agreement with the noun. Thus, your completed phrase is: **Un gatto buffo**.

If you were to use an online translator by typing in 'a funny cat' and allowing the translator to produce the entire phrase, you would rob yourself of the opportunity to show your teacher that you know the words AND how to put them together. These aspects of syntax are the grammatical elements that you are responsible for learning in your Italian class, and you must be able to perform these tasks on your own. For this reason, copying a phrase or sentence from an online translator is in violation of the

school's Honor Code.

**A tip:** Make sure to pay attention to parts of speech when you look up a new word. For instance, 'bat' – the noun, and 'bat' – the verb, are different words in Spanish. El murcielago– noun, animal /el bate– noun, sports / batear- verb.

## International Programs

As we all know, the world is a small place these days - and getting smaller. Our students will need the ability to deal inter-culturally and internationally in their lives much more so than we ever did. To help develop these skills, Bishop Watterson has three sister schools with whom we do annual exchanges. BWHS families host a student for ten days to two weeks in the fall or spring and then have the opportunity to return the visit in the spring. Students may host and/or travel as many times as they wish in their four years at Bishop Watterson and there is NO language requirement. Students are encouraged to host both within and outside of the language(s) they are studying. Travel to Italy is usually for ten days over spring break and travel to France is usually two full weeks in early June. Cost is approximately \$2,000.00, all expenses included. Travel is open to students only. Contact for the exchange programs is Mr. Dury at [jdury@cdeducation.org](mailto:jdury@cdeducation.org).

Our sister schools with dates their students come are:

Istituto Russell-Newton - Florence, Italy  
20 to 25 students every year in fall

We also have a mission trip to Central American each June, organized through International Samaritan. A meeting about the trip is held in September with applications due in late September or early October.

# GOOD LUCK!

**In bocca al lupo! ¡Buena suerte! Bonne chance! Bonam Fortunam!**