

**Department:** World Languages

**Course Name:** Global Village

**Course Description:**

This quarter length course for sixth-graders introduces students to the rich variety of languages throughout our world and the cultures where they exist. The class combines an historical perspective on language development with basic language skills from among both Western and non-Western languages, as well as gives students the opportunity to learn about cultural practices, art and literature from selected areas of the world. In addition, sixth-grade students will learn the rudiments of Spanish, French and Latin, and will select one of these for study beginning in the seventh-grade year.

**Content:**

Communicating Without Words: mime, gestures, body language, symbols, signs, codes, texting

Language Families and Dialects – how to talk about language

Exploring the Language Through Religion, Music, Food, Art, Politics, Geography

Arabic  
Swahili  
Chinese  
Latin  
French  
Spanish

**Skills:**

Learn basic words used in greetings and leave-takings

Analyze each language in terms of roots, cognates, derivatives, and borrowed words

Learn proper pronunciation through song, maxim, poem, or dialog in each of the target languages

Compare eastern languages from the Semitic, Ethiopic and Sino-Tibetan families with languages in their own language group: The Indo-European family

Prepare a dish from one of the regions studied

Learn the rudiments of Arabic calligraphy and Chinese character formation

Differentiate between phonetic and non-phonetic languages

Discover cognates and derivatives in Latin, French, and Spanish

Compare and contrast cultures, geography, and history of the ancient Roman, francophone, hispanophone, Chinese, and Arab cultures

**Text and Materials:**

Greenwood, Eileen, Get Talking Chinese, (Dorling Kindersley Publishing, 2007)

Ghali, Naglaa, Write it in Arabic, (Fun with Arabic, 2004)

Bouchentouf, Amine, Arabic for Dummies, (Wiley Publishing, 2006)

Ashworth, Kathryn and Robbins, Elaine, Discovering Languages: Latin, (AMSCO School Publications, 1995)

Ancillary materials

**Methods of Instruction:**

Conversational exchange

Cooperative activities

Direct explanation (lecture)

Discussion of supplemental materials

Drill

Role playing with another student or with interactive online sites

Rote memorization

Review of homework

Evaluation of films

Novels and online media in the target language whenever possible

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Portfolio

Composition

Class participation grade including student self-evaluation

