



THE BROWNING SCHOOL
1888

New Science and World Language Courses in Upper School

Dear Grade 8, 9, 10, and 11 families:

I write with news of exciting changes to our course offerings beginning next fall that will help strengthen our Upper School program and provide more choice for our students.

In science, physics will become a required subject for all students in Grade 11. This change better aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) promoted by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA). Students who want to continue to take advanced biology or advanced chemistry, which are the electives offered at that grade level, will still have the opportunity to do so in addition to physics.

In world languages, rising Grade 9 students will be offered the option of Mandarin, in addition to our traditional offerings of Latin II, Spanish II, and French II. This change allows for more choices for the greatest number of students overall, and we believe that interest in the four languages we will offer is high. As always, students will be able to take two languages if they choose to do so, as long as they still fulfill Browning's requirement of a three-year sequence in at least one language.

For Grade 9 students new to Browning, those with prior study in Latin, French, or Spanish will need to demonstrate proficiency in order to be placed in a level II course, or must choose either Mandarin I or Latin I. Browning requires three years of study in at least one world language, so these students will be expected to take the same language through level III.

The choices will be made clear to students in the coming weeks when the course selection process begins. Please reach out to me or your son's advisor at that time if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim DeAngelo
Interim Head of Upper School



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World Language Options for Students New to Browning

Incoming Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students will be placed into the Grade 5 French or Spanish class. We will recommend summer work to facilitate the transition into these language courses.
Incoming Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students who have experience in a language or complete independent summer work may take a diagnostic assessment to enter French or Spanish. Students who do not take a diagnostic assessment will be placed in Latin (Introductory level).
Incoming Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students who have experience in a language or complete independent summer work may take a diagnostic assessment to enter French or Spanish. Students who do not take a diagnostic assessment will be placed in Latin (Introductory level).
Incoming Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students will be placed into the Grade 8 French or Spanish class and the Grade 8 Latin class. We will recommend summer work to facilitate the transition into these language courses.
Incoming Grade 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students who enter Browning without prior language instruction in Spanish or French may choose Latin or Mandarin (Introductory level).Students who have experience in a language may take a diagnostic assessment to enter French or Spanish.
Incoming Grade 10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students who have experience in a language or complete independent summer work may take a diagnostic assessment to enter French, Spanish, Latin, or Mandarin. [Please note that Mandarin II will not be offered until the 2025-2026 academic year.]