



## The Benefits of Selecting World Languages SUPA Courses

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Dear Upcoming Seniors,

When considering your fifth-year language elective, I strongly recommend choosing the SUPA French, Italian or Spanish course offered by the World Languages Dept. These practical, intermediate, college courses, provided in partnership with the University of Syracuse, grant four transferable college credits to students who obtain an average of 85 or better.

Keep in mind that SUPA courses are not open access. In order to be eligible to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the language and focus on sharpening your speaking skills, you must have an 85 average in your current level IV language class and your teacher's recommendation.

These courses are taught in the target language and require students to actively participate in communicating in the chosen language. This is exactly the type of course which will help you challenge yourself, but without overburdening your overall course load. Don't you want to be able to be proficient in speaking your target language by the end of your HS career? Being able to communicate with others in a foreign language can open so many doors. It is a lifelong skill that will serve you well.

I know this firsthand. I was able to obtain a paid internship throughout my junior year in college by working for an Italian company because I was able to speak different languages. The same company hired me upon graduating and so began my ten-year career in international business. I was fortunate to travel extensively and have wonderful experiences. Languages also afforded me the versatility to switch careers and pursue my second career in education. Perhaps, if not business or education, you may be considering the field of healthcare, law, politics, architecture, or the arts. Today, more than ever, we live and work in a global community. The ability to communicate in another language will give you a competitive edge in these careers and countless others.

I would like to dispel, two myths: 1) SUPA courses are less prestigious than AP and 2) most colleges do not accept SUPA credits. Like AP courses, SUPA courses are honor courses with

a weighted average of 1.1 which only require you to obtain an 85 in the course in order to receive college credit. Unlike AP, your credit does not solely depend on your performance on the AP exam. So many very satisfied and thrilled Pelham alumni have had their SUPA credits accepted. Many were able to complete their college language requirement while still in HS, whereas others were able to successfully move up to a higher course by placing out of the intermediate level courses. As an added bonus, many alumni are able to declare a minor or an additional major in a language due to having completed the SUPA credits at Pelham. What a wise decision!

Please do not sell yourself short or be afraid to enroll in these courses. They are very manageable. Provided you are willing to participate and practice speaking as much as possible, I am confident that you will become not only college ready, but career ready, talented individuals. Should you find that the course is not a good fit for you, as with any other course, you can always alter your class selection in the fall. However, in order to have options, it is very important to enroll in the SUPA course to guarantee that the course will run.

If you wish to speak to me further, please stop by my office (RM 220) and I will gladly discuss your fifth-year language elective options. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and for being such dedicated language students.

Good Luck!  
Mrs. Calvelli  
District Coordinator of World Languages  
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