

**French I-V**

# 'Parlez-Vous Francais?'

*By Leslie Berkelhammer*

Parlez vous francais? (Do you speak French?)

If you do, you are one of 80 million persons who speak French as their native language and millions more who use it as a second language.

The French Department, instructed by Mrs. Anne Oakley and Mme. S. Devinant, is renowned throughout the state. In keeping with various students' backgrounds, all ability levels, I-V, are offered.

"In French I," says Oakley, Foreign Language Department chairperson, "perhaps the most important thing is giving the student a feeling for French culture."

Fundamental vocabulary,

grammar, and word pronunciation are quickly absorbed in order to make speaking easier and more natural. The listening and speaking skills learned the first year are built upon in French II, and reading selections are also emphasized. This is the most demanding level. In it, all necessary structure is learned. Increasing reading ability, vocabulary, and some writing are also incorporated into the curriculum.

Taking two years of a language fulfills most college admission requirements. However, Oakley says, "If you quit after two years, in my mind, you have nothing, really nothing . . . . It's like taking two years of

piano and saying, 'I'm ready to play Carnegie Hall!' -- can't do that."

After learning the basics of the language, French III, IV, and V offer the time for the student to assimilate the knowledge and use it. French III concentrates on selections from literature and cultural discussions. French IV and V, carrying honors credit, are "the crucial years for pulling all the things together that you've learned since seventh, eighth grade," says Oakley. Students work on grammar "trouble spots" and listening comprehension. They also prepare for college placement and achievement tests.

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Why take French? Besides being one of the leading romance languages, it is also the language of diplomacy. For translation purposes, French is precise with less chance of misinterpretation than in other languages.

In the next 10 years, Grimsley French students may well use the skills they are learning now -- in business, travel, education, or perhaps government work.



# 'Habla Espanol?'

*By Lisa Von Aspern*

Spanish, taught by Mr. Henry Whitaker and Mr. Richard Whittemore, enrolls approximately 285 Grimsley students. Most of these stu-

dents are in the second or third level; however, level one and more advanced levels are also taught.

Vocabulary, basic grammar, and idioms are taught in Spanish I and II; and in

the third, fourth, and fifth levels, literature beginning with the twentieth century and progressing into classical literature, with reviews of

grammar, are learned. All classes see productions such as "El Cid" and other famous Spanish classics.

The Spanish Department recommends that a student

take as much Spanish as possible for it offers three

major advantages. Not only do two years of a foreign language have to be taken in order to fulfill admission

requirements for most colleges and universities, but by enrolling in Spanish courses in high school, a student fairs better at the college level.



More Spanish speaking people are entering the United States each year, and many language authorities feel that Spanish may soon become a second United States language.

According to Whitaker, "We're trying to promote five years of Spanish here. We want people who start to continue through their senior year."



French Club students from Grimsley, Smith, Dudley, and Page view the movie "Le Medicin Malgre Lui" by Moliere, spoken entirely in French. Sixty-one people, 32 from GHS, attended the February 24 meeting at the Palmer Plaza Library. (Kevin Carpenter Photo)

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