MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Western Michigan near the shores of Lake Michigan
About 5,000 students average age of 27
Homogeneous population
Limited funds and staff
Communter
FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The faculty:
1 Coordinator, who also teaches Spanish full time
1 full-time Spanish with 3 adjunct faculty
1 adjunct French faculty
1 adjunct Chinese faculty
1 adjunct American sign Language faculty
½ time of a full time faculty German (me)
GERMAN, FRENCH AND SPANISH

Foreign Language Enrollment

- **FR-101**
- **GER-101**
- **SPAN-101**

![Graph showing enrollment trends over calendar years](image-url)
STRATEGIES

Need an Advocate
  Passion
  Dedication
  Willingness to fight for German
  Enthusiasm
  Energy
  Love

YOU!
Raise visibility of German
- Annual trip to Chicago’s Christkindelmarkt
- German Films
- Kaffeeklatsch
- Select textbook
- Have to love it
- My goal = world citizens
- Auf Geht’s with culture emphasis
Dual Enrollment

Local high schools – 3
Typically add 2-3 students per class
Trip to Germany
Kaufmännische Schule Stuttgart Nord
German Exchange
17 years
ICS 101 GER – ABOUT 60 STUDENTS

Foreign Language Enrollment

- ICS-101GER
- ICS-101GER2

Calendar Years:
- 2006
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

Students:
- 0
- 5
- 10
- 15
- 20
- 25
- 30
KEEP THE COUNSELORS INFORMED

- Visit often
- Show off text
- Explain program
CHALLENGES

Time /personnel

only one $\frac{1}{2}$ faculty member

no time to expand the offerings or experiment
REPUTATION OF GERMAN “GERMAN IS HARD”
CAREER GOALS OF STUDENTS

Criminal justice,
Health care,
Social work,
Teaching

BUT

Science
Business
Dropping foreign language?

BY KRISTLE WAGNER
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Michigan legislators and officials at Spring Lake Public Schools might be speaking different languages.

High school seniors must currently have two credits in a foreign language class to graduate, but legislators are discussing possible changes.

As Lansing looks at their options, Spring Lake officials are moving forward with plans to re-arrange the curriculum and allow more students to take foreign language courses.

Mark Webster, chairman of the Department of World Languages for Spring Lake Public Schools, said he’s hoped to make the change since the 1990s, but now plans are in motion.

By the time a student graduates and has four or five years of another language, they’ve had about 700 or 800 hours of learning in that language, Webster said.

Re-arranging the curriculum to give younger students the opportunity to take foreign language courses would give students an additional 100 to 200 hours of learning time.

Webster said the added exposure to additional languages is critical in today’s global society.

“They can become more proficient, and it makes them more marketable later on,” he said.

The curriculum change would require seventh-grade students to take one credit for world languages, which would be broken up into introductory courses for Spanish and French.

Eighth-grade students would be required to take a world language course. As they progressed in grades, students could add a second language to their schedule.

Spring Lake Public School Curriculum Director Scott Ely said the goal is to offer other courses, such as literature and history, in another language.

“There’s no reason why we shouldn’t be doing this,” Ely said.

As school officials work to grow and increase the program, Webster said the way foreign language students learn has changed, too.

Students no longer rely strictly on textbooks as the way to develop new language skills.

While students learn grammar concepts, it isn’t a large focus until later years when students reach upper levels, Webster said.

Instead, classes work on vocabulary, reading and listening skills with basic grammar concepts along the way.

“They forget they’re learning,” he said. “They’re just picking up a language.”
DO I HAVE THE ANSWERS?

“Wait! Wait! Listen to me.... We don’t HAVE to be just sheep! We can take GERMAN!!”