



## WNHS junior earns French language camp stipend

A Woodstock North High School junior who speaks three languages was recently awarded a stipend to further his French studies this summer at a Minnesota-based language and culture immersion school.

Marko Ortiz earned a \$2,000 stipend from American Association of Teachers of French Société Honoraire de Français to pursue French studies at the French Virtual Language Camp at Concordia Language Villages.

Marko has been in District 200's dual language program since elementary school. He is fluent in Spanish and English and began learning French at Woodstock North

Isabelli said Marko, whom she also uses as a classroom assistant, hopes the experience in the language camp will prepare him for AP French next year

"He is striving for the Trilingual Award that North offers, as well as the Seal of Biliteracy in both Spanish and French next year," Isabelli said. "He is an exceptional student who will go far in his life. No matter what path he decides to pursue, I am sure that French and Spanish will be an integral part of it."

"Marko was chosen for this national award based on his application, his essay in French, and two teacher recommendations, one of which was written by his French teacher, Andrea Isabelli and another by his Spanish teacher, Thomas Donar," said Regina Symonds, president of the ATFS SHF. "The selection committee was impressed with the fact that Marko is working to earn the Trilingual Award, and also by (Woodstock North) in particular."

Marko said he is "super excited" about earning the award and looking forward to the language camp experience. He plans to continue onto college after graduating high school in 2022 and where he is likely to study biology or chemistry.

"I feel like this stipend will help me start my post-high school career very successfully. I personally think it is very helpful and important to study languages. I am currently trying to be trilingual (English, Spanish, and French) because I think it will greatly help my future career," Marko said.