

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Department of Mathematics

Department of Fine Arts

Department of International Languages

Placement Tests for Rising Freshmen: The Class of 2028

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School! We are confident that you will find your experience as a green dragon immensely rewarding.

We understand that the wealth of information in this packet may seem a bit overwhelming. However, the enclosed documents contain critical information regarding placement tests for Math, International Languages, Visual Arts, and Orchestra. It is imperative that you read the information carefully to determine what is relevant to you, and it is also important that you complete the required tests by the indicated deadlines: **March 24th for International Languages** (except for Chinese, which is March 25th-26th), **March 26th for Math**, **April 19th for Orchestra**, and **May 24th for Visual Arts**. As a Green Dragon, you will be expected to exemplify the principle of honor. In this case, it means that you will **not receive help** on the placement tests. Your performance should reflect your knowledge and demonstrate your skills. The results of the assessments will ensure that you are placed in the course that will offer you the greatest opportunity for success.

Again, we realize that we have provided you with a lot of information to read and tasks to complete, but this is a critical part of the process.

Good luck on your assessments, and best wishes on your journey as a Green Dragon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Connie Hill, Coach Jeff Hall, and Mr. Michael White

Chairs for the Mathematics, Fine Arts, and International Languages departments

Please see the details below to determine which tests you will need to take:

Math Placement Test

Only incoming freshmen needing to register for Algebra II and wishing to be considered for the Algebra II Plus course are required to take this test. The intent is to place you in the most appropriate course for your success. *(Whether you take Algebra II Honors or Plus, you will still have the opportunity to take Precalculus at the Plus level the following year based on your performance in Algebra II at Maggie Walker.)* The assessment contains 50 questions consisting of multiple choice, true/false, and free response. You should spend **NO MORE** than 75 minutes on the entire assessment. **NO CALCULATORS ARE PERMITTED and no other resources may be used.**

Step 1: Access the Test

The test problems are located on the Maggie Walker website: www.mlwgs.com. Click on the link for **Academics** and then choose **Mathematics** to find the placement test. Print the test if you wish. **Do not preview the test prior to completing it.**

Step 2: Take the Test

You must complete the test in **one sitting** of 75 minutes or less. You may use scratch paper, but **NO CALCULATORS ARE PERMITTED and no other resources may be used.** When you have completed your test, you will be entering your answers in Quia (see next step). **DO NOT** open the

Quia link until you have completed the test and are ready to input all of your answers (in a single seating) as you may only enter Quia one time.

Step 3: Enter Your Answers

After completing the test, submit your answers using the following link:

<https://www.quia.com/quiz/4179124.html>. **Be sure to enter your name!!** You can only enter Quia one time to enter your answers so **DO NOT** open Quia until you are ready to input all of your answers. When completed, you will immediately receive a score and will be able to see which problems you missed. The following results describe the options for course selection.

1. 40 or above correct: If you are interested in the accelerated course, we recommend you register for Algebra II Plus. See a math department member on registration night to receive a signature.
2. 39 and below: The Honors course is the appropriate option.

The test must be completed by **March 26th**.

Visual and Performing Arts Placement Tests

Orchestra Audition

Orchestra students interested in auditioning for the **Advanced Level Orchestra** must contact the Orchestra Director, Mrs. Barnes, no later than Friday, April 19, to be considered for the class. Only exceptionally strong applicants should apply. A middle school orchestra teacher recommendation and audition will be required. Please email Mrs. Barnes at abarnes@gsgis.k12.va.us for more information.

Band Audition

Currently, the MLWGS band program does not offer auditions. All incoming band students should sign up for **Intermediate Band**.

Art 2 Portfolio

Art 1 is the prerequisite for Art 2. The Art 1 curriculum covers specific art history, media skills, vocabulary, and other artistic concepts that a student must be capable of understanding and utilizing in their work. Without this prior training and confidence building, success in Art 2 and subsequent art classes could be compromised.

Students coming from programs that offer a Carnegie Unit for Art 1 (RPS and Henrico) should sign up for Art 2 directly. No additional portfolio is required.

Additionally, some students who have *not taken an official Art 1 class*, DO have sufficient knowledge and abilities due to independent study, advanced 8th grade art class, private lessons, and/or alternate coursework. For these students, a process has been created for those students to apply to Art 2 and to determine if skipping Art 1 is truly in the best interest of the student.

In order for “nonsequential entry to Art 2” to be considered, the entry application (below) must be completed in full and submitted via email no later than May 24th.

Until a final determination is made, students are asked to enroll in Art 1. The application materials can be photographed and emailed to jhall@gsgis.k12.va.us in digital format with the subject

line “Art 2 Portfolio.” Based on the results of this assessment, the most appropriate placement for the applicant will be determined.

*****Until a final determination is made, students are asked to enroll in Art 1. Once the application has been reviewed, I will communicate to the Counseling Dept. and request a transfer from Art 1 to Art 2.**

Thank you for your interest in the MLWGS Art Department! We look forward to having you join our amazing community of young artists. You can find out more about our program at www.maggiewalkerarts.com.

ART 2 APPLICATION

Please email **ALL** of the following information and portfolio submissions to jhall@gsgis.k12.va.us by May 24.

1. STUDENT INFORMATION:

- Student name _____
- Home Phone _____
- Student email _____
- Parent name and email _____
- Home county _____
- Last art class taken & when _____
- Most recent Art teacher _____

2. PORTFOLIO ENTRIES: Complete these activities, one per page, on 8.5” x 11” printer paper.

- Position your non-dominant hand palm up, fingers loosely bent; Draw your hand as accurately as possible using only contour lines with line quality.
- Arrange 3 - 5 small objects of different sizes/shapes/textures to create a dynamic composition; Draw the still life as realistically as possible using a full range of values.
- Ask someone to pose for you (standing); draw the model as proportionately as possible.
- Sit at the far end of a hallway; draw exactly what you see with careful attention to linear perspective.
- Using a color medium, paint or draw a subject of your choice using one of the following color schemes: analogous, split- complementary, or triadic.

Please email **ALL** of the following information and portfolio submissions to jhall@gsgis.k12.va.us by May 24.

International Language Placement Tests

The faculty of the Department of International Languages has designed placement assessments in **Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish** to determine incoming freshmen's skills and content knowledge in the target language so that we may make our best recommendation to help you maximize your success at MLWGS. **Any rising freshman wishing to register for a level higher than Level I in any of these five languages must take a placement test.** A strong foundation will give you the best chance to achieve linguistic fluency and cultural understanding at the highest possible levels of your chosen language.

As future Dragons, you are expected to abide by our standards of honor when taking these placement tests—and any future assessments—which **prohibit the use of ALL outside resources, including online translators, artificial intelligence tools, dictionaries, materials received in previously-taken courses, or consultation with anyone.** The work you submit should be yours and yours alone. Remember: the goal of these placement tests is to make an **authentic assessment** of your content-knowledge and skill in the target language so that we may **place you appropriately.** If you use outside resources, you are likely to find yourself placed in a level for which you are not prepared. This can have negative ripple effects that impair your chances of success for the rest of your high-school career. **If you cheat, you're only cheating yourself.**

Below you'll find information for each language and its placement test. All online assessment tests must be completed by **11:59 PM on Sunday, March 24, 2024**, though details vary (see below for your language). For the Chinese placement test, please contact Ms. Sharon Meng directly (see details below). The French, German, Latin, and Spanish placement tests are accessible at **mlwgs.com**. Click on the link for **Academics & Activities**; then click on **International Languages**, under the **Academic Overview** tab on the left side of the page to find a.) the appropriate placement test, or b.) information on how to obtain the test. Be sure to click on the correct level to **take the test for the course you want to take in the 2024-25 academic year.**

The tests for French, German and Spanish have a time limit of 60 minutes. All tests must be taken in one sitting, and you will not be given a second attempt.

Placement testing must be completed **no later than Sunday, March 27th. (For Chinese, however, testing will be conducted on March 25-26.)**

Freshman Registration will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at Maggie Walker. The tests will have been assessed by that time, and you should have been informed via email of your placement. (Teachers will be available in person on the 27th with your placement information in case you didn't receive notification.) Parents choosing to override the department's recommendation should follow the instructions received in the email containing the placement results.

Any student who does not take the placement test will be required to enroll in their most recent language level and will not be permitted to register for the next sequential course for the 2024-25 academic year.

Please be advised that 1a and 1b are valued as one Carnegie credit. As an example for German, if you took 1a as a 6th grader and 1b as a 7th grader, then German II as an 8th grader, then you will be entering German III at MLWGS.

Chinese:

- For all levels other than Chinese I, contact Ms. Meng at smeng@gsgis.k12.va.us immediately, but no later than Monday, March 27th, to arrange for your placement test. Chinese placement tests will be conducted in person at Maggie Walker on **Monday-Tuesday, March 25-26, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.**
- Please note that, while MLWGS offers AP Chinese most years, the availability of this course depends partly on enrollment numbers. For that reason, the Department cannot guarantee that, if you choose Chinese as your four-year language **and** enter at a level higher than Chinese I, AP Chinese will be available during your senior year. We can guarantee that four years of study will be available to make Chinese your four-year language **ONLY** if you enter at Chinese I.

French:

- Incoming freshmen wishing to enter at level 2, 3, or 4 are required to take the placement assessment. Students interested in taking AP French in their sophomore year are strongly encouraged to consider taking the prerequisite French 4 as freshmen.
- The test is administered through Quia.com. Links are available on the school webpage, and are also posted below.
- The French placement tests will be available until 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 24. Students will be notified of their recommended placement before Incoming-Freshman Registration on March 27.
- Testing to place into French 2: <https://www.quia.com/quiz/8360502.html>
- Testing to place into French 3: <https://www.quia.com/quiz/8360504.html>
- Testing to place into French 4: <https://www.quia.com/quiz/8360505.html>

German:

- Incoming freshmen wishing to enter at level 3 or 4 are required to take the placement assessment. Students interested in taking AP German in their sophomore year are strongly encouraged to take the prerequisite German 4 as freshmen.
- The test is administered through Quia.com. Links are available on the school webpage, and are also posted below.
- The German placement tests will be available until 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 24. Students will be notified of their recommended placement before Incoming-Freshman Registration on March 27.
- Testing to place into German 3: <http://www.quia.com/quiz/7216512.html>
- Testing to place into German 4: <http://www.quia.com/quiz/7216513.html>

Latin:

- For incoming freshmen wishing to enter level 2 Latin, the placement assessment is recommended but not required.
- All incoming freshmen wishing to enter level 3, 4, or Pre-AP are required to take the placement test. Latin 4 and Pre-AP are both level 4 courses, but Pre-AP is a prerequisite for AP Latin: Caesar & Vergil.
- The test is administered through Quia.com. Links are available on the school webpage, and are also posted below.
- The Latin placement tests will be available until 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 24. Students will be notified of their recommended placement before Incoming-Freshman Registration on March 27.
- Testing for Latin: <https://www.quia.com/quiz/6797427.html>

Spanish:

- Incoming freshmen wishing to enter Spanish 2, 3, 4, or Pre-AP are required to take the placement assessment. Spanish 4 and Pre-AP are both level 4 courses. However, students interested in taking AP Spanish during their sophomore year should take Pre-AP Spanish as freshmen. Spanish 4 students can still end up taking AP Spanish, but we recommend that those students enroll in Pre-AP during their sophomore year, followed by AP during their junior year. Students taking the placement test will be given the opportunity to indicate on the test which level they wish to be considered for.
- The test is administered through Quia.com. Links are available on the school webpage, and are also posted below. **Take the placement test for what you expect to be your next sequential course; i.e., if you are currently in Spanish 2, please take the Spanish 3 placement test.**
- The Spanish placement tests will be available until 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 24. Students will be notified of their recommended placement before Incoming-Freshman Registration on March 27.
- Testing to place into Spanish 2: <http://www.quia.com/quiz/7216514.html>
- Testing to place into Spanish 3: <http://www.quia.com/quiz/7216515.html>
- Testing to place into Spanish 4/pre-AP: <http://www.quia.com/quiz/7216529.html>

If you have questions or experience testing irregularities, please email Mr. [Michael White](mailto:mwhite@gsgis.k12.va.us), Chair of the Department of International Languages, at mwhite@gsgis.k12.va.us.