

## **International Languages Skills Assessments for Incoming Freshmen: The Class of 2029**

The faculty of the Department of International Languages has designed skills assessments in **Chinese, French, 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 four languages must take a skills assessment.** 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 skills assessments– 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 skills assessments 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 skills assessment. All skills assessments in **French, Latin, and Spanish** will be conducted on **Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Maggie Walker.** All incoming freshmen will take their Mathematics assessment at 9:00 A.M. and then, after a break, their language assessment. Any students wishing to take a second language assessment will have to schedule that separately. (To do so, please contact Michael White, Chair of the Department of International Languages, at [mwhite@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:mwhite@gsgis.k12.va.us).) For the **Chinese** skills assessment, please contact Ms. Sharon Meng directly (see details below).

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

**Freshman Registration will be held on Wednesday, March 26, at Maggie Walker, at 6:00 P.M.** The tests will have been assessed by that time, and you should have been informed via email of your assessment. (Teachers will be available in person on the 26th with your assessment 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 assessment results.

**Any student who does not take the skills assessment 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 2025-26 academic year.**

*Please be advised that 1a and 1b are valued as one Carnegie credit. For example, if you took Spanish 1a as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and Spanish 1b as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, then Spanish II as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, then you will likely aspire to enter Spanish III at MLWGS.*

**Chinese:**

- For all levels other than Chinese I, contact Ms. Meng at [smeng@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:smeng@gsgis.k12.va.us) immediately, but no later than Monday, March 24th, to arrange for your skills assessment. Chinese skills assessments will be conducted in person **at Maggie Walker on Monday-Tuesday, March 24-25, 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 skills assessment. Students will also be provided with a list of the skills covered in each level to compare what is covered in their current classes; students should consider this list carefully, as curricula can vary widely across counties and schools.

**Latin:**

- For incoming freshmen wishing to enter level 2 Latin, the skills assessment is recommended but not required.
- All incoming freshmen wishing to enter level 3, 4, or Pre-AP are required to take the skills assessment. Latin 4 and Pre-AP are both level 4 courses, but Pre-AP is a prerequisite for AP Latin: Caesar & Vergil.

**Spanish:**

- Incoming freshmen wishing to enter Spanish 2, 3, 4, or Pre-AP are required to take the skills 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 skills assessment will be given the opportunity to indicate on the assessment which level they wish to be considered for.
- In 2025-26, Maggie Walker is pleased to offer a new class– Spanish for Heritage Speakers. This is a level 4 course designed for students who speak Spanish at home or in their community. If you are eligible for and interested in this class, please take the Spanish 4 skills assessment.

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