

**Skills Assessments for Incoming Freshmen
for Mathematics, International Languages, and Visual & Performing Arts
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School**

Skills Assessment Day Fast Facts:

Sat, March 22, 2025

Check in at 8:30 AM; Testing begins at 9:00 AM

At MLWGS: 1000 N. Lombardy St., Richmond

Mathematics

French

Latin

Spanish

Please bring a digital or print copy of your *current* academic schedule.

If you are unable to attend, please reach out to Ms. Ndayizigiye at

kndayizigiye@gsgis.k12.va.us

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 amount of information in this packet may seem a bit overwhelming. However, the enclosed documents contain critical information regarding skills assessments for math, international languages, visual arts, and orchestra. It is imperative that you carefully read the information to determine what is relevant to you. Skills assessments for mathematics and international languages will take place **in person** on Saturday, March 22nd (See details below). Orchestra and Visual arts skills assessment are **virtual by email**. The details are provided below. The deadlines for submission of any auditions or portfolios are: **Saturday, April 19th for Orchestra, and Saturday, May 24th for Visual Arts**.

As a Green Dragon, you are expected to demonstrate the principle of honor. In this case, it means that you may **not receive help** on the skills assessments. Your performance should reflect your knowledge and demonstrate your skills. The results of the assessments will ensure that you are placed in the course(s) that will offer you the greatest opportunity for success.

For those with any questions or who are unable to attend the March 22nd date, please reach out to Ms. Kelly Ndayizigiye (kndayizigiye@gsgis.k12.va) to reschedule for the make-up date on April 8th at 4pm.

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

Best wishes on your journey as a Green Dragon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Connie Hill
Chair, Mathematics Department

Mr. Michael White
Chair, Department of International Languages

Coach Jeff Hall
Chair, Visual & Performing Arts Department

Below are the details of the Mathematics, Languages, and Arts assessments.

Mathematics

All incoming freshmen will complete the mathematics skills assessment specific to the course they wish to register for in the Fall.

With students entering Maggie Walker from 14 divisions, these tests will provide us with useful information for differentiated instruction and appropriate class placement for students. Beginning at the Algebra 2 level, we offer Honors and Plus level classes. The majority of our incoming students will be enrolled in our Honors classes. The Plus level classes are for the students who are advanced mathematically and have a passion for mathematics. These classes are taught at a faster pace, with deeper analysis and extensions. Students are expected to master the material quickly. Please refer to the chart below for more details.

Honors	Honors Plus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Reviews</u> previous concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assumes mastery of previous concepts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Adjusts</u> pace to student need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student adjusts to faster pace with more independent student learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focuses on conceptual understanding and skill development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focuses on conceptual understanding with more depth and additional content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepares for calculus (not including AP Calculus BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepares for calculus, including AP Calculus BC

Students who are interested in a Plus level class (Algebra 2 or Precalculus) should visit the mathematics table at registration night to see if they achieved at least the minimum score needed for placement and to receive a signature on their registration form. If a student is enrolling in Geometry or is not interested in a Plus level class, they do not need to acquire a signature for registration purposes.

The skills assessments are different for each math course. They may include multiple choice, true/false, and free response questions. You will be given 60 minutes to complete the skills assessment. **NO CALCULATORS OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY ARE PERMITTED and no other resources may be used.**

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, 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.) 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 6th grader and Spanish 1b as a 7th grader, then Spanish II as an 8th 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 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.

Visual and Performing Arts

Orchestra Audition

Orchestra students interested in auditioning for the **Advanced Level Orchestra** must contact the Orchestra Director, Mrs. Allison Barnes, no later than Saturday April 19th, 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

Students who have taken “Art 1” should sign up for Art 2 directly. No additional portfolio is required. **Note: Art 1 taken outside of MLWGS does not count as a Fine Arts requirement for graduation.**

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.

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 “non sequential 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 submit an application for Art 2 ONLY if you have not completed an Art 1 course in middle school.

Students who have already completed Art 1 should sign up for Art 2. No portfolio required.

Please email **ALL** 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, draw, or collage a subject of your choice using one of the following color schemes: analogous, split- complementary, or triadic.

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