

World Languages Competency-Based Credits



Information for Parents and Guardians:

In 2012, Marysville School District (MSD) adopted a policy and procedure for assessing language proficiency and granting competency-based credits for World Languages. If your child can understand, speak, read, and write a language other than English, then you might want to consider participating in this program. This year, MSD is offering an opportunity for students to test in **Arabic, Mandarin (Traditional and Simplified), French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Filipino (Tagalog), Somali Maay Maay, Somali Maxaa, Vietnamese & Yup'ik**. We are working on adding more languages in the future.

Students may be able to earn from **1 to 4 high school world language credits**. These credits can help meet high school graduation requirements for elective credits and 4-year college admissions requirements for world (foreign) languages.

Students are asked to complete a **self-assessment**, found on the reverse side of this paper, to see what level of proficiency they can demonstrate in **reading, writing, speaking and listening**. The directions and questions are provided only in English.

Depending on their self-assessment, a student may then take an external assessment to determine their proficiency. This is a computer-based test called STAMP (STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency) or World Speak (depending on the language selected for testing). All assessments will be evaluated based on proficiency guidelines from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Credit will be granted if students meet the following levels of proficiency:

- Novice Mid - 1 credit
- Novice High - 2 credits
- Intermediate Low - 3 credits
- Intermediate Mid - 4 credits

Credit will appear on the transcript with a "P" for pass as the grade mark.

Through this process, Marysville School District recognizes and values the language skills students develop in their homes, their community, and previous places they have lived. However, please note that students are also encouraged to continue studying languages after they earn competency-based credits. Language is rich and complex, and the more students know, the stronger they will be. Families are encouraged to seek out further language learning opportunities in the school and beyond.

Questions? Please contact the Assessment Department at 360-965-0038. Shawn_stevenson@msvl.k12.wa.us

Learn more at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/StudentsEarnCredits.aspx>



For Students:

Complete this self-assessment:

Take a moment to think about your current language skills in the language that you wish to be tested in (not English). If you can answer "Yes, I can do this fairly easily" to each statement, then you will probably be able to earn at least 1-2 credits when you take the language test. If you can answer "Yes, I can do this very easily" to all of the statements, then you may be able to earn 3-4 credits when you get tested.

- I can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through phrases, short sentences, and frequently used expressions. [**Listening**]
- I can understand the main idea and some details in simple texts that contain familiar vocabulary. [**Reading**]
- I can exchange information with another person about familiar tasks, topics and activities. [**Person-to-Person Communication**]
- I can use a series of phrases and sentences to provide basic information about familiar topics. [**Spoken Production**]
- I can write simple descriptions and short messages and request or provide information on familiar topics. [**Writing**]

Sample tests: <https://stamp4s.avantassessment.com/avant/do/samplelogin>

Cost: The district is sponsoring testing for all eligible students in grades 8-12 in Marysville School District to take a STAMP or World Speak exam.

Location: Students will take the STAMP test at the school they attend during their normal school day.

Testing Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018.

Registration: Please go to the **Counseling Office of your school**, and ask for a STAMP Test Registration Form. Complete and return the form to the Counseling Office by **Friday, February 9, 2018.**