

# Herricks Public Schools

## The Department of World Languages

### Summative Assessments

Dear Student,

Assessments tell teachers and students many things about teaching and learning that go above and beyond a grade on a report card. Our world languages courses will continue to use a mix of traditional and performance-based assessments to tell us how well students are progressing towards increased proficiency in the Chinese, French, Italian, or Spanish language. Assessments help us reflect, set goals, provide additional support when necessary, and then move forward. Please note that some traditional assessments will be replaced this year with more performance-based assessments. Our final exams are no exception; three performance-based tasks (final exam) will be administered in May/June over a period of time in class. We believe that this will release the stress from taking a final exam over a two to three hour period on a given day in June. Students will practice and deepen their understanding of the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication; these tasks will in turn help us, the teachers, more precisely assess how well you speak, read, write, and listen in the Chinese, French, Italian, or Spanish language.

The three modes of communication explained:

*Interpretive tasks include: Reading, Listening, and/or Viewing followed by comprehension questions*

*Interpersonal tasks include: Listening/Speaking (conversation), and Reading/Writing (correspondence)*

*Presentational tasks include: Speaking, Writing, and/or Visually Representing*

Final Performance-based Assessment Grade Breakdown:

*30% Interpretive Tasks*

*35% Interpersonal Tasks*

*35% Presentational Tasks (written task(s))*

Students at all levels will take final exams that involve the three modes of communication. Details will follow based on your level and school building. Again, teachers will practice these tasks throughout the year to prepare you for the final.

Please note that students who are enrolled in a Chinese, French, Italian, or Spanish Level 1 (grade 8) or Level 3 (grade 10) course will take an exam called the *FLACS Checkpoint A or B Assessment*; these assessments include performance-based tasks. Since the AP Language exams are designed around the modes of communication, AP language students will only take the AP language exam as their final exam. Teachers will explain in more detail the format and grading of these external exams. Again, students will be well prepared for these assessments.

World language students will now be required to set up a digital portfolio to store some of their course work to highlight growth in speaking and writing, along with self-reflection pieces, in their Herricks K-12 account. The great news is that this is not additional work since you will have completed these tasks in class and we only ask that you select several among the many. We are not seeking perfect pieces of evidence of speaking and writing! More great news! The grade you receive for your portfolio is based on selecting and submitting the required pieces of evidence and self-reflection pieces; a rubric will be shared. Language learning takes time and we believe that a digital portfolio will help you grow as a learner of a language other than English! Details will be shared by your teacher once the department finalizes some additional details. We thank you for your understanding and patience!

Have a great year!!!

The World Language Team of Teachers