

Foreign Language Department, Introduction to Foreign Language



Frequently Asked Questions:

The nature of the Intro to Foreign Language class

What exactly is this class?

This class introduces students (usually 7th graders) to all three languages available in this school. It lasts for half a year (a semester) – about 18 weeks, so students spend about six weeks each learning some basic vocabulary and culture for Spanish, French, and German.

Why all three languages?

Students will have the chance to explore a little bit of each language in 7th grade BEFORE deciding on a language for a year-long class in 8th and/or 9th grade. Otherwise students could feel “stuck” in a language for a year if they later discover it wasn’t what they thought it would be.

WalkAways in Intro Classes

How many WalkAways can my student expect per language?

At least 2, no more than 3: greetings and courtesies, classroom objects and commands, and sometimes a third unit, on geography and culture of one or two well-known countries where the language is an official language.

What does a Walk Away look like in the Intro class?

All Intro Walk Aways are matching – students only need to recognize the correct answer at this level of the language

How can I help my son/daughter prepare at home for their WalkAways?

Encourage him/her to review notes and vocabulary EVERY SINGLE DAY for 10-30 minutes (that includes A-days, weekends, and holidays). Ask him/her to share with you vocabulary learned and used in class that day. Encourage him/her to use the language in the home and then share the translation.

Consistency is the key, so on busiest days, students can do quicker reviews, then do more in-depth study for up to 30 minutes on the other days. Working on written and spoken homework assignments COUNTS as review.

How does the teacher prepare students for Walk Aways?

Students have worksheet packets which can serve a study guides once completed, and we use class time to discuss memory devices to help students remember translations. I am also available every day before school and Tuesdays – Fridays after school to answer questions and help students practice. See disclosure for more information on re-takes: when and what remediation the student needs to complete before a re-take.

Advisory in Intro Classes

What will advisory “look like” in Miss Schwab’s room?

For the most part, students will choose a desk, get out their notes and review quickly, then in their turn come get the test they need. Students who cannot tell me which test they need are considered unprepared and will spend the rest of the Advisory time that day reviewing the needed information. The assumption is that if the student is prepared, they certainly can tell me which vocabulary topic they have studied.

Using PowerSchool in Intro Classes

How can I use PowerSchool to help my son/daughter succeed in Intro?

Information to look for:

- Assignments in blue have more information included – when possible, it instructs absent students how to make up the assignment on their own
- Students are always welcome to come get more help before and after school.
- Assignments include actual due dates; Walk Aways show date first offered in class

The Intro Required Notebook

Why the 1-inch, 3-ring binder with plastic protectors?

Students will learn important organizational skills, plus this is their “textbook” with all the information they need for the comprehensive final at the end of the semester.