

# Spanish - Frequently Asked Questions

Spanish is a core class at MSA so all students are required to take Spanish to graduate.

## FAQ

**Q: Do you offer any languages besides Spanish?**

A: We only offer Spanish. Since MSA is a small school, we have some scheduling restraints and offer one language to make our schedules work best for all students and keep our focus on a language that is prevalent in the United States.

**Q: Do all of the sixth graders take Spanish?**

A: Yes, at MSA Spanish is a core class and students are required to take Spanish from sixth through eleventh grade.

**Q: My student had Spanish in elementary school about once a week, do they still take Middle School Spanish IA?**

A: Yes, they will still take Middle School Spanish IA. Their program likely focused on basic vocabulary. It will be helpful to know but they will learn mainly new concepts in this course.

**Q: My student has never had Spanish before, are they in the same class with students who have had Spanish before?**

A: Yes, all incoming sixth graders are in the same class. You do not need to know any Spanish prior to coming to MSA to be successful in Middle School Spanish IA.

**Q: My student went to immersion school; do they take the same class as the other sixth graders?**

A: If your child is coming from an immersion school there will be a placement test this spring and you will be notified of the date as soon as it is set. The test will take place after school and should not take more than an hour. After the test, the Spanish department will grade it and look at the score to determine the best placement for your child. They may start in Middle School Spanish IA or IB, or potentially High School Spanish II depending on their score.

**Q: But my student went to immersion school, why did you still place them into Middle School Spanish IA?**

A: Based on the placement test your child may not be ready for higher-level grammar taught in MS Spanish IB. While their comprehension and speaking skills will be outstanding, they likely did not show the knowledge needed on grammar or vocabulary on their test. They will still be challenged in MS Spanish IA. This class is comparable to the first half of a High School Spanish 1 class in the South Washington County School District.

**Q: My student is a native Spanish-speaker, will they take Middle School Spanish IA?**

A: If your child is a native Spanish-speaker there will be a placement test this spring and you will be notified of the date as soon as it is set. Please make sure to mark on your enrollment forms that your child speaks Spanish at home so that we know to contact you for the placement exam. The test will take place after school and should not take more than an hour. After the test, the Spanish department will grade it and look at the score to determine the best placement for your child. They may start in MS Spanish IA, MS Spanish IB or High School Spanish II depending on their score.

**Q: My student is starting as a new seventh grader, what class will they take?**

A: New seventh graders take MS Spanish IA.

**Q: My student is starting as a new 8th - 10th grader, what Spanish class will they take?**

A: If your student has never had any Spanish before, they will take High School Spanish I. This course will cover the content taught in both MS Spanish IA and IB. Upon successful completion, students will begin in our HS Spanish II class. If your student has had some Spanish before, they will need to schedule a placement test prior to the school year starting in the fall to determine what level will be appropriate. Please keep in mind that since we start Spanish in sixth grade that our courses are not called the same as other schools. Our "Spanish II" is at a higher level than "Spanish II" at another school so don't let the title of the class they place into be discouraging.

**Q: Is there any way for my student who has never had Spanish before to practice over the summer?**

A: Yes, all students will be provided with some vocab words and practice work to complete over the summer. The summer Spanish packet will be passed out at your child's math placement test.

# SPANISH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## Students who start at MSA in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:



\*Exception: a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student who has gone through the immersion program may take a placement test and has the potential to start in Middle School Spanish 1A or 1B, or High School Spanish II depending on their score. This student would follow an accelerated path until they exhaust the Spanish program at MSA.

## Students who start at MSA in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:



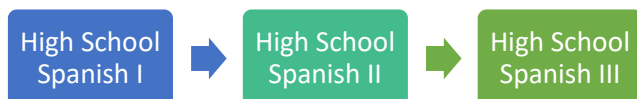
## Students who start at MSA in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade with no Spanish experience:



## Students who start at MSA in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade with no Spanish experience:



## Students who start at MSA in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade with no Spanish experience:



## Students who start at MSA in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade with no Spanish experience:



## Students who start at MSA in 12<sup>th</sup> Grade with no Spanish experience:



Students with previous Spanish experience coming to MSA will take a placement test to determine a starting level and follow the flow chart from there. This does not apply to incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have had Spanish approximately once a week throughout elementary school. Students need to follow the flowchart based on the benchmarks at MSA. For example, this means they may have taken a class called "Spanish I" at another school that is not the equivalent of our Spanish I because we start Spanish in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and have different course names. This student may still take MSA Spanish I based on the placement test. Please contact Kassie Larson, Spanish Department Chair, at [klarson@mmsa.org](mailto:klarson@mmsa.org) with any questions.