

Why take the placement exam?

Taking the Spanish placement exam gives students the opportunity to enter the most appropriate level of Spanish based on their previous knowledge and abilities in the language. Whether a student has taken 8 years of Spanish or just one, the placement test will give the school a clear idea of what Spanish class will both engage and challenge him or her. All students are unique in their background knowledge, skill level, and ability to apply their skills. Students from the same grade school are not necessarily placed in the same level- each student's results will determine his or her placement.

Based on exam results, students will be placed in one of the following classes:

- Spanish 1
- Spanish 1 Advanced
- Spanish 2 Advanced

Because students who place into Spanish 2 Advanced begin with second year Spanish, they will have the opportunity to take the equivalent of a fifth year of Spanish their senior year, either Spanish 5 or Spanish 5 AP Literature.

What happens if a student take the placement exam?

A student who does not take the placement exam will be placed in Spanish 1. This course is designed for students with no previous knowledge of Spanish. That means that if a student with previous knowledge does not take the placement exam, he or she will start over from the beginning. This may sound like an easy option for some, but the class may move too slowly for a student who has already mastered the content. Taking the placement exam matches each student with the class appropriate for his or her skill level.

So, should I take the placement exam?

If you have had least one year of Spanish instruction in elementary or middle school, you should take the test.

What is Spanish Heritage?

This is a two year program designed for students who have a Spanish heritage background or who have been immersed in Spanish growing up. The perfect candidates for this program are students who understand and can speak fluently, but who have not had a formal class in Spanish. In these two years the students increase their language competency by formally studying the grammar and semantics, as well as the history, music, literature and customs that distinguish and unite the Latin American countries. After the second year the students may be placed in an advanced level 4 class.