# MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT COFFEE

Understanding Our World Languages Program

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# Good morning!

How do you say “Good morning” in your home language?

Write it in the chat!

For example: ¡Buenos días! (Spanish)



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Proficiency at SAS
- Answers to FAQ

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A world leader in education, cultivating exceptional thinkers, prepared for the future.

# MS World Languages Team



**Daisy Castaño**
MS Spanish & French PLC Leader



**Dana Gao**
MS Chinese PLC Leader



**Omar Rachid**
Interim Director of World Languages



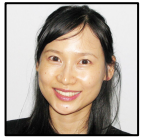
**Pauli Haakenson**
Chinese Language Coach



**Dana Gao**
MS Chinese



**Ella Chen**
MS Chinese



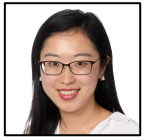
**Jenny Hwang**
MS Chinese



**Anita Liao**
MS Chinese



**Serena Xia**
MS Chinese



**Yifan Zhang**
MS Chinese



**Nancy Zhao**
MS Chinese



**Daisy Castaño**
MS Spanish



**David Pallás**
MS Spanish



**May Basse**
MS French & Spanish



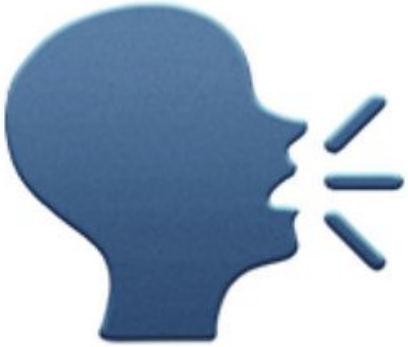
**Kathy Ritzer**
MS Spanish

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# Proficiency at SAS

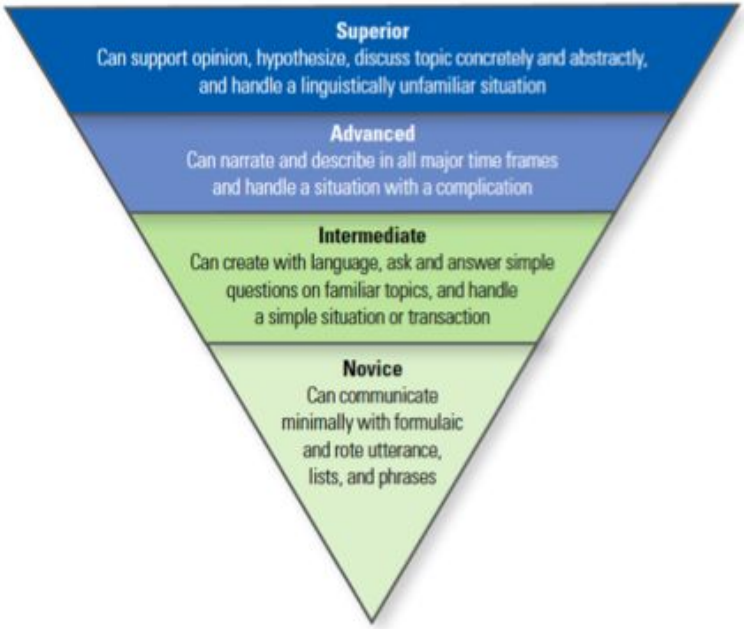
What makes our program unique?

ACTFL AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES



## Language Proficiency

- **What a student can do with language (speaking, writing, listening, and reading) in real-world situations that are spontaneous and unrehearsed.**
- **Simply stated, not only what you know about the language, but what you can do with it.**



# Classrooms - French






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# Classrooms - Chinese

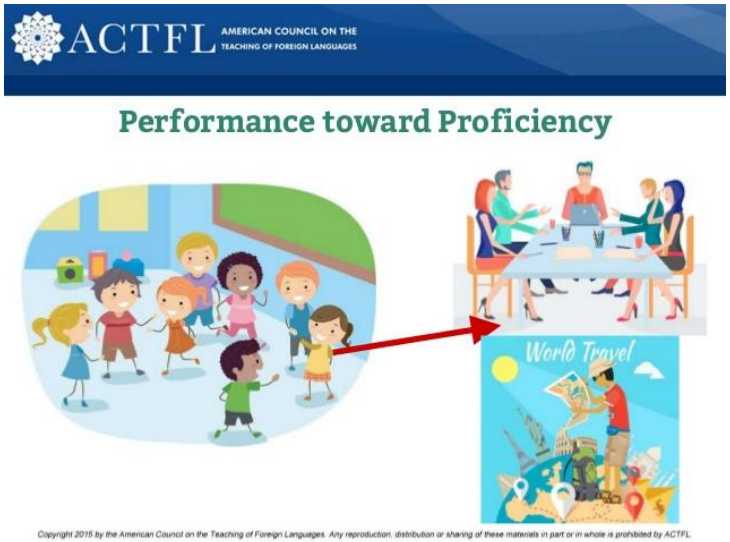


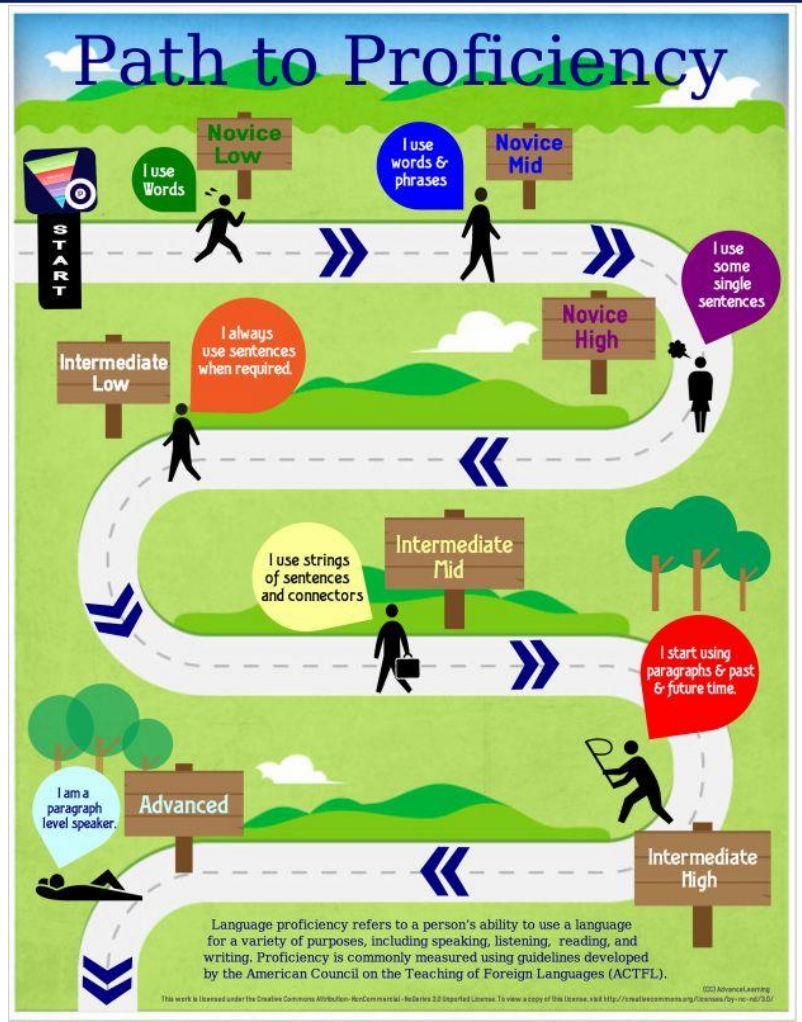





# Proficiency at SAS

What makes our program unique?




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# Classrooms - Spanish




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# Classrooms - Chinese






# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do we place new students?



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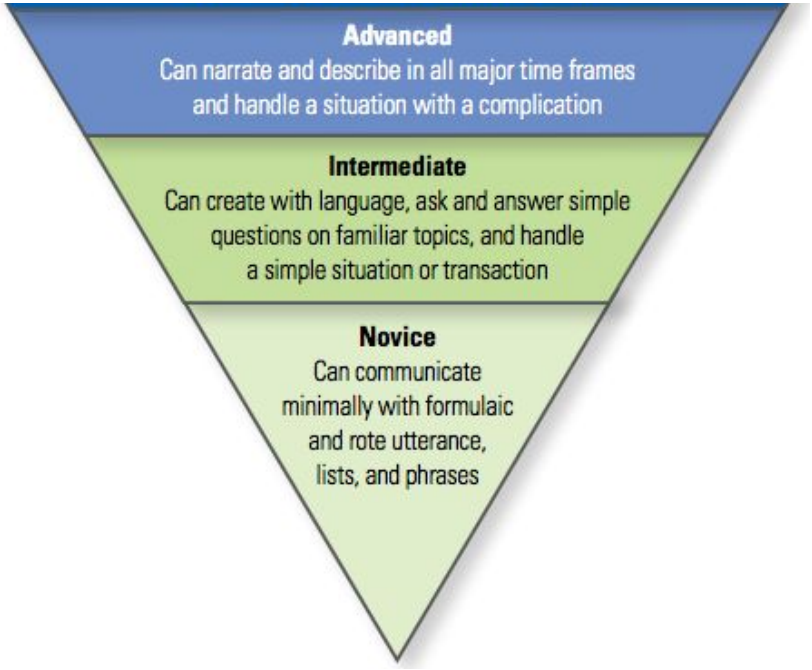


- The main determining factor is a student's oral language proficiency skills
- In Intermediate courses, reading skills are also contributing factor
- For returning students, the previous year's teacher makes the placement recommendation, which we honor
- For new students, we review records and often do 1:1 oral and reading assessments to determine their proficiency level

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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

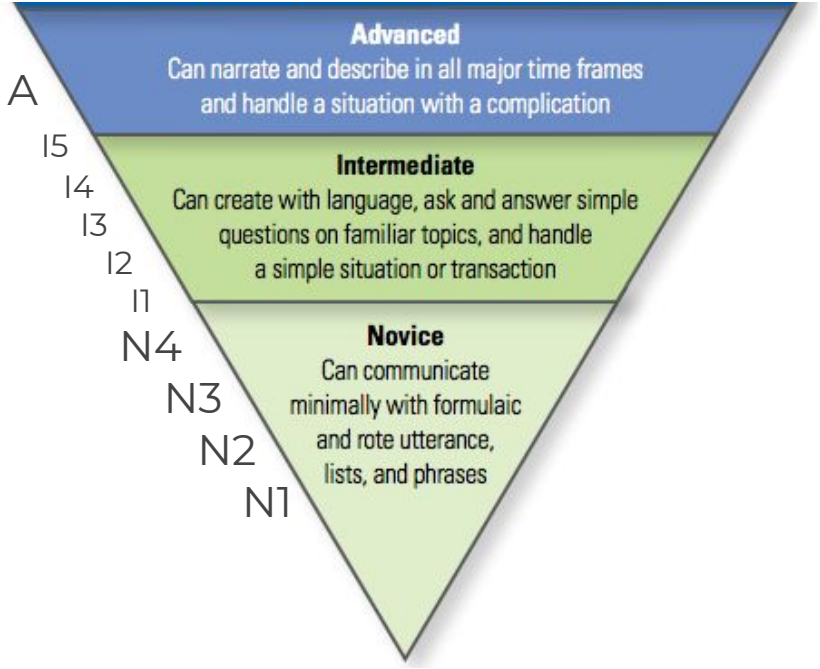
2. What criteria do we use to allow students to “move up” a level?



# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

2. What criteria do we use to allow students to “move up” a level?

- We refer to the ACTFL inverted pyramid
- For scoring, we use the AAPPL score descriptors (N1-N2-N3-N4-I1-I2-I3-I4-I5-A) and each level has an exit target attached. PPG Link



# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

3. What if I think my child is placed in the wrong level?



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## 3. What if I think my child is placed in the wrong level?

- "Go to the source," speak to your child's teacher first
- In cases where we need more information about placement, we follow up with a level check to confirm their proficiency level
- The counselor and parents are involved when we have more information



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

4. What is the process for when 8th graders are signing up for 9th grade World Language courses?




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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## 4. What is the process for when 8th graders are signing up for 9th grade World Language courses?

- Grade 8 World Language teachers make recommendations in February
- Students who are switching to a new language may do so
- If students have some background in the new language, high school teachers arrange assessment in April
- High School does not re-assess students at the start of the new year
- For new students, we review records and often do 1:1 oral and reading assessments to determine their proficiency level




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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

5. How much homework is assigned?



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## 5. How much homework is assigned?

- World Language teachers follow the Middle School homework guidelines according to grade level
- Homework typically involves review, wrap up of classwork or preparation for assessments
- In upper level courses, outside expectations for reading may differ



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

6. How will my child know when a test is coming up?



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## 6. How will my child know when a test is coming up?

- World Language teachers use Google Classroom to share announcements and dates for upcoming assignments and assessments



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

7. What should I do if I am curious about my student's needs being met?



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# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## 7. What should I do if I am curious about my student's needs being met?

- Again, we recommend you "go to the source," speak to your child's teacher first
- To get more information, check in with your child, review assignments in Google Classroom
- An appropriate level of challenge is something we all want for your child



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# EXIT TICKET

## Link in Chat

What is the most helpful thing you learned today?
What questions do you still have?

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