Proficiency Tests 2026
Frequently Asked Questions*

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why does Pres have proficiency tests?

We use proficiency tests to place students in courses where they will be appropriately challenged and can be successful. Presentation High School attracts students from over 60 middle schools across the Bay Area; given the diversity of curriculum that our students experience prior to matriculating at Presentation, our proficiency tests, rather than middle school grades, are the most effective placement tools.

Why is the math test required for all students?

Given the variability in curriculum across our many feeder schools, we feel we can best meet the needs of our students by testing all students in math.

How do I register for these tests?

- The Class of 2030 webpage will have resources to orient you to our curriculum and scheduling process using Powerschool. When you enter your course requests into the Powerschool Scheduling Portal you will select the day you would like to take a proficiency test. By selecting either the MAIN testing date or the MAKEUP testing date, you are automatically registered for this test.
- All proficiency exams will be in person. In advance of the test we will send you an email confirmation that includes exam day instructions. The Powerschool Scheduling Portal will open on April 14, 2026 following the Class of 2030 Scheduling Night Meeting.

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TEST INFORMATION

What is the test format?

Each test consists of both multiple choice, and free response questions. The language tests include a listening and informal speaking portion as well.

How long are the proficiency tests?

We have advertised that all testing blocks are 90 minutes. This provides time for the student to get settled, receive instructions and upload answers. The actual test lengths are:

Math: one hour for Algebra I; one hour and 15 minutes for the combined Algebra/Geometry test
French or Spanish: one hour
Honors English and/or Honors World History: one hour (For students interested in both classes we have designed a combined version of the test. It will take one hour for both courses.)

What happens if I miss my proficiency test?

We offer two dates for each test. Please make every attempt to attend the proficiency test dates scheduled.

The English, World History and Modern Language proficiency exams are optional. If students are unable to attend either date, they will be placed into regular, college prep level courses for English 9 and World History. Likewise, they will be placed in Level 1 for their chosen Modern Language (French, Spanish or ASL). This is necessary to ensure that all students receive their course schedules in late May.

Since the Math Proficiency Exam is required, students will be assigned to a make up date in late summer or early August. Taking the Math Proficiency Exam late may impact the availability of your other courses depending on your approved math placement.

TEST PREPARATION

What do I need to bring to the tests?

- Please bring two, #2 pencils and an eraser for ALL tests.
- For the Honors English and Honors World History exams:
    - Bring a pen

- For the Math exam:
    - Bring your own electronic device (i.e., iPad, laptop, etc.)
        - If you do not have one, you may indicate your request to borrow one when you register for the exam in PowerSchool.
    - You do not need to bring a calculator as they are not permitted.
- For the Modern Language exams (i.e., Spanish, French, ASL):
    - Bring a pen
    - Bring your own electronic device (i.e., iPad, laptop, etc.)
        - If you do not have one, you may indicate your request to borrow one when you register for the exam in PowerSchool.
    - Bring headphones or earbuds.
        - If you do not have one, you may indicate your request to borrow one when you register for the exam in PowerSchool.
- You may bring a water bottle if you would like to have that during the test.

How should I prepare?

- We recommend that students review the test descriptions posted on the scheduling page of the Class of 2030 website. The Honors English, Honors World History, and Modern Language tests are all skill-based and no preparation is required. Math test-takers might want to brush up on topics they don't remember. However, no specific test preparation is recommended or required. The purpose of the test is to assess where students are and 100% mastery is not required for advancement.
- Additionally, students will receive a link to practice test(s) when they receive their confirmation email for all scheduled proficiency exams and instructions for test day on April 17th.
- Students should be physically prepared to take the test. This means being well-rested, and we recommend eating a satiating, healthy snack prior to the test.
- Students should arrive 15 minutes early to Presentation High School so they have time to check in, get settled into their assigned classroom and prepare mentally.

I wasn't feeling well the day of the test and don't think I did my best. Can I retake it?

We do not offer test retakes. Students should be mentally and physically prepared to take the test. If your student is sick and cannot perform at their best please request a makeup test date prior to sitting for the test.

It's the middle of April and I still have a month left in my math class. Will this hurt my math proficiency test score?

We recognize that students who are currently enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry have not completed the course. Our test is designed to take that into consideration.

TEST RESULTS

When will I get my proficiency test results?

We communicate proficiency test results once all tests have been completed. We plan to send an email containing proficiency test results and placements by **May 11th**. Given the larger volume of testing we are doing this year we appreciate your patience as our department chairs work through grading all of the exams.

Do I need to change my registration in Powerschool after I get my results?

No. We will change your registration for you based on the classes you place into.

If I place into more than one honors class, can I decide not to take all of them?

Yes. Just because you place into an honors class does not mean that you have to take it. You will be given the option to opt-out of any honors classes in which you place.

SUMMER SCHOOL

What if I place into summer Algebra or Geometry? What will show up on my schedule?

- When you receive your schedule it will show the class for which you currently qualify. If you are taking Algebra or Geometry over the summer, your fall schedule will show Algebra or Geometry. You qualify for the next level class *after* successful completion of the summer course.
- We will update your fall schedule the **week of August 1st**, after all summer school sessions are complete and grades have been processed. **Given that different classes are offered at different periods, your entire schedule, including electives, is subject to change.**

If I don't get my test results until May 11th, will there be a spot for me in summer school if I qualify for math advancement?

- Yes. Our summer school classes will begin on June 15. Students who are eligible and plan to enroll in a math advancement course should register asap after receiving their placement results. See the Summer at Pres website for more information on attendance policies and options and for course offerings.

**If you have any additional scheduling questions please contact the Scheduling Coordinator at scheduling@presentationhs.org.*

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