

Dear Parent or Guardian,

An important goal of the Norwood Public School's Foreign Language Department is to adopt the principles of proficiency in foreign language instruction. This is a progressive philosophy that is spreading across the nation with the advancement of the Seal of Biliteracy: a movement in which Norwood is proud to be a pilot district.

In April this year we are fortunate to administer to seniors and juniors in levels 4 and 5 of a language the opportunity to take the AAPPL (Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) or ALIRA (ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment).. The exam will be scheduled by your child's teacher and should take no more than three class periods and will in no way affect your child's grade. The exams are scored externally by certified raters and are reported separately for each of the 4 domains of language (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) to your child and your child's teacher.

AAPPL and ALIRA scores are proficiency benchmarks aligned to ACTFL (American Council on The Teaching of Foreign Languages) levels Novice (low, mid, high), Intermediate (low, mid, high) and Advanced (low, mid, high). If you are curious to find out more about the exam, please feel free to review some of the exam materials at Avant's website:

<https://www.actfl.org/assessment-professional-development/assessments-the-actfl-testing-office/aappl/tasks-topics>

The rating provided by this assessment is a nationally recognized rating that can be used both academically and professionally to describe one's proficiency in a language. This information should be placed in the "skills" section of a resume or CV and can be shared with college admissions counselors to determine placement in foreign language classes.

Additionally, as a Seal of Biliteracy pilot school, students with an appropriate mode score across all 4 levels will earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

AAPPL / ALIRA Rating	Seal of Biliteracy Level
Intermediate-Mid	Silver
Intermediate-High	Gold
Advanced-Low	Platinum

Even though this assessment does not impact your student's grade, it is important for your student to do their best work. Please help us to underscore the importance of working hard and celebrating many years of global language study.

If you have any questions please contact Cindy Derrane, Norwood Public Schools Foreign Language Department Chair,  
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