

MCS Seal of Biliteracy

MCS Seal of Biliteracy webpage

TO EVERYONE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE MCS Seal of Biliteracy:

- **PLEASE** join the Schoology Group with the following code so that you will receive updates on testing information, medal / certificates / seal distribution, etc. Code = **FXF8-H95T-9H3XQ**

If you have ALREADY applied during a previous school year:

- **If you received the minimum score or higher on one of the approved assessments**, you **DO NOT** need to apply again. We have your information and are waiting to confirm that you meet all graduation requirements for MCS. You will receive the Seal of Biliteracy for your diploma, a certificate, and a medal to wear at graduation at the end of your Senior Year. (Watch for emails / social media posts on when those things will be handed out.)
- **If you DID NOT receive the minimum score or higher on ALL portions of the approved assessments (you need to retest one or more sections)**, you **DO NOT** need to apply again. You will need to confirm with Mrs. Mooney (room B216) in person or by email that you would like to order just those sections of the test. Please pay attention to your MCS email account for information from her. (She has already spoken or emailed many of you this week.)

If you have NOT already applied, please continue reading the information below.

Who can apply? When / during which level should you apply? How often can you apply?

- Students who speak another language other than English, whether that language is a native language, heritage language, or foreign language that has been learned, are invited to apply.
- Native and heritage speakers can apply whenever they feel comfortable taking a proficiency test and when applications are made available. This means that if the student is a freshman, he or she can go ahead and take a proficiency test if he or she feels ready.
- Students who have studied a foreign language are encouraged to wait until they are in at least a level 4 class. However, if they feel confident or would just like to go ahead and see where they place, they can take the test as early as level 3.
- Tests are given at the end of BOTH the fall and the spring semesters. Students are encouraged to test during a semester when they are in class.
- If a student fails to receive a passing score, students may retake the test or just a portion of the test. Retest opportunities are given within a few weeks of the original testing date. Test fees will be just for the portions that are being taken again. Applications don't have to be resubmitted.

How to apply?

- Go to the MCS Seal of Biliteracy webpage (found on both the BJHS and MCS websites.)
- **Complete the online application OR print a paper application and bring it to room B218 (Bruni).**

All students who apply MUST fulfill the following requirements:

● **English Proficiency Requirements (determined senior year)**

- For students whose primary language is English:
 - Successful completion of ALL Madison City Schools' high school graduation and state requirements
- For students whose primary language is not English:
 - if student exited EL services in grades K-5, they must successfully complete ALL Madison City Schools' high school graduation and state requirements

OR

- if student received EL services in grades 6-12, they must meet and maintain Alabama exit criteria on WIDA ACCESS 2.0 English proficiency test

● **World Language Proficiency Requirements, ONE of the following**

- A score of "3" or higher on the AP (Advanced Placement) exam for a world language (test must be taken by the end of junior year), or
- ALIRA score of "1-3" or higher (Latin only), or
- A score of "1-3" or higher on Form B in all four components (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) of an AAPPL test, or
- A score of "1-3" or higher on both sections of the OPI / WPT for students **
- A score of "1-3" or higher on the OPI **
- Other approved test at intermediate-mid level (for languages not covered in above mentioned tests)
- ***Students can only take the OPI/ WPT or the OPI in languages not covered by the AP test, ALIRA, or AAPPL. Please go to www.languageTesting.com for a list of which languages are available for which tests or visit the Madison City Schools Seal of Biliteracy webpage (link at the top of this document).*

● **Payment of the following fees** *All students are encouraged to apply regardless of financial ability.*

- \$20 non-refundable application fee
- Test fees (test dependant)
 - AAPPL \$ 24
 - This covers the regular test fees, as well as the computer proctor exam fees.
 - If a student needs to retake a portion of the AAPPL, that fee is \$5 per section.
 - ALIRA \$14
 - AP exam (cost set by the College Board)
 - OPI / WPT \$55
 - Costs of other approved tests to be determined

How will the tests be administered?

- Students who are paid and scheduled to test in spring 2021 for the AAPPL or ALIRA or OPI/WPT exams will be able to take the exams online at home. **An excused absence per Mrs. Lambert will be given for the date chosen to test. Students will be able to choose which day they want to stay home and test within a given window.**
- The tests will be given by a remote proctor (online). Students' computer screens will be recorded, as well as what is going on in the room behind them. The recordings will only be viewed by ACTFL trained staff **IF** there is a concern about cheating. Please visit the following site to be sure you have the correct equipment and testing environment. [AAPPL Computer-proctor handbook](#)
- Student login information will be emailed to them once test payments have been received.

Are retests available?

- For the AAPPL, students will be allowed to retest for the sections on which they scored BELOW an Intermediate 3. They do NOT need to retake the entire test.
- Students are allowed to retake the ALIRA test.
- Students will need to pay the necessary fees BEFORE retests will be ordered.
- Students can choose to wait until the next testing window during the following semester if they choose.

How will certificates / medals be awarded?

- Underclassmen who receive proof of their proficiency in a language other than English, shall receive a certificate of proficiency. **They will NOT receive the full Seal of Biliteracy until their Senior year because they still need to meet all English graduation requirements for Madison City Schools.**
- Seniors who receive proof of their proficiency in a language other than English AND who have met all English language graduation requirements, shall receive a certificate for the Seal of Biliteracy, a seal to put on their diplomas, as well as a medal to wear at graduation. (This is the only medal that can be worn at graduation.)
- The distribution of certificates and medals will be organized once test results are in and we have determined the safest way to do so. Please watch for emails to the school, social media posts, and announcements through our Schoology group as we get closer to graduation.

If you still have any questions after reading the above information, please feel free to email Mrs. Mooney at amooney@madisoncity.k12.al.us or come by room B216. If she is unavailable, you can check with any of the World Language Department teachers and they will direct you to the best source for answers.

Thank you all for your interest in the MCS Seal of Biliteracy.

Sincerely,

Madame Mooney

Department Lead: World Languages Department

Seal of Biliteracy Team Lead

French Teacher

Bob Jones High School

“La personne qui sait deux langues, en vaut deux.” (The person who knows two languages is worth two people.)