

Welcome to LEAD!

Linguistic Excellence And Discovery

LEAD! is a program which allows students to engage deeply in their studies of world languages at **Walter Johnson High School**. Students are encouraged to communicate in a variety of world languages, to pursue at least one world language to the highest possible level, and to explore the history and cultures of world communities.

The LEAD! program is separate from the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy. The purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy is to recognize students who can communicate and demonstrate proficiency in more than one language and if proficient, will earn a diploma that recognizes their biliteracy. LEAD! participants often earn the Seal of Biliteracy in one or more languages.

The courses to fulfill the LEAD! program requirements, however, are taken at Walter Johnson High School and encourage students to take AP level World Languages courses and end of year AP exams to prepare them for university level courses and the possibility to earn college credit in high school.

To participate in this program, students will:

- Study one world language through the AP level and take that AP exam.
- Study a 2nd world language through at least the second year.
- Complete three additional courses from the options below:
 - Up to 2 of the following:
 - AP Art History
 - AP European History
 - AP Human Geography
 - AP World History
 - AP Comparative Government
 - The 3rd year (and subsequent years) of the 2nd world language.
 - The 1st year (and subsequent years) of a 3rd world language.
 - Post-AP study of the 1st world language.
- Earn a grade of B in any course used to complete program requirements.

Major Project Requirement

Completion of a major project (to be proposed by the spring of the student's junior year and approved by the World Languages Department), which might be, for example:

- a community service internship that makes use of the student's communicative skills;
- a creative project, which could include translation;

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- service as a DH in a world language class, officer in a World Language Honor Society; or
- a project based on a student's summer stay and studies abroad.

Any student may opt to join the **LEAD!** program. Students are encouraged to declare their intent to participate by the end of the 9th grade.

Recognition and Benefits

- **LEAD! Scholars:** The designation of “**LEAD! Scholar**” will be awarded at graduation to students in the program who, by the end of their senior year, have successfully completed the requirements and taken the corresponding AP[®] exams.
- College Board AP[®] Scholar: **LEAD!** Scholar program participation contributes to formal recognition by the College Board as an AP[®] Scholar.
- Benefits: opportunity to earn college credit while in high school; an accelerated program especially designed for talented and motivated learners; preparation for rigorous college programs.

LEAD! application is online only by completing the “Intent to Participate” form on the WJ web site. Please refer any questions to **LEAD!** Adviser, [Maria G Cavallini@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Maria_G_Cavallini@mcpsmd.org).