

Dear Parent/Guardians:

On January 7, 2020 we will be administering the STAMP 4S assessment to our Spanish Heritage 3 and recommended Spanish 3, 4 and AP Spanish students. The Avant STAMP stands for *Standards-Based Measure of Proficiency* and is a nationally recognized web-based test that assesses language proficiency and provides district-wide data on how well our students are progressing in their study of a second language. The Avant STAMP 4S test is used to determine levels of Novice to Advanced and assesses how well students understand, and are able to use the language.

The test has four sections – Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking that uses real-world questions, scenarios or prompts that engage students to actively determine their individual proficiency levels in each of the skills.

- Reading and Listening items are computer-scored and computer-adaptive (meaning that questions are selected based on previous responses, becoming easier or more difficult as needed to determine proficiency level)
- Writing and Speaking items are scored by Avant’s trained raters who use a Scoring Rubric that lists the criteria for meeting Benchmark Levels
- Demonstrated ability on Reading and Listening sections facilitates the types of Writing and Speaking prompts the test taker will receive
- Tests are taken in a proctored environment with no outside resources allowed. No paper, pens, pencils, cell phones, etc. are allowed in the testing area. No additional applications (e.g., Word, email, chat) or browser windows are allowed to be open during testing.
- Avant graders review all written and spoken responses and any inappropriate responses (vulgar, violent, etc.) will not be scored and will be reported to your test administrator

The STAMP 4S is a tool used to determine proficiency, not just another standardized test. Student scores that meet the criteria will qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy. Students could also potentially use their results to help with their placement and /or credit at the college or university level, as well as share their results with potential employers.

You can also learn more about STAMP at their website at <https://avantassessment.com/stamp4s>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Sherma at lsherma@cctecnj.org

