Foreign Languages Events

General Information 2026-27

The LHSRA offers literary events for French, German, Latin, and Spanish as well as four distinct types of State Rally open foreign language events in order to emphasize and encourage the oral-aural aspects of modern foreign language instruction.

Literary Events

Foreign language literary events that are offered at the District Rallies and State Rally are as follows:

French I, II, & III
Spanish I, II, III, & IV

Participants who have qualified based on their ranking at District Rally to compete at State Rally, take written tests that are scored and rated as follows:

1st Place:	Gold medal and certificate
2nd Place:	Silver medal and certificate
3rd Place:	Bronze medal and certificate
4th & 5th Place:	These places are recognized on the LHSRA website only when the number of event participants is 16-25 (4th Place) or 26 or more (4th & 5th Places).

In addition, State Rally offers special foreign language literary events for German I, II, & III and Latin I & II that *do not require* qualification at a District Rally. Ratings for these special literary events are as follows:

1st Place:	Gold medal and certificate
2nd Place:	Silver medal and certificate
3rd Place:	Bronze medal and certificate
4th & 5th Place:	These places are recognized on the LHSRA website only when the number of event participants is 16-25 (4th Place) or 26 or more (4th & 5th Places).

Open Events

State Rally offers these four open event categories that *do not require* qualification at a District Rally, Festival, or Tournament:

Extemporaneous Speaking (French, and Spanish – II, III, and IV)
Interpretive Reading (French, German, and Spanish – I, II, III, and IV)
Oral Presentations for Heritage Speakers (Spanish)
Dramatic Skit (German – I, II, III, and IV)

Participants in these State Rally open events are rated as follows:

Superior:	Gold medal and certificate
Excellent:	Silver medal and certificate
Good:	Certificate

No school may enter more than one student in each open event. **Except for the Spanish for Heritage Speakers event, a student who is a native speaker of a foreign language is ineligible to participate in an open foreign language event**. Thus, a student whose main language at home is other than English is considered to be a native speaker of that particular language. Schools must certify that students are non-native or native speakers of the target language. Entry forms for State Rally Foreign Language events must be completed and submitted on the State Rally website, www.lhsra.org, by **April 2, 2027**, in order to complete registration.

Extemporaneous Speaking
(French and Spanish)

Time Limit: Five Minutes

This event is open only to second, third, and fourth year students in French or Spanish. A drawing for subjects will be held the morning of State Rally. Each contestant will draw twice, and will have a choice between the two topics. Each will have 30 minutes in which to prepare. The student may use notes; however, during the presentation, the student should use them sparingly so that they do not interfere with the effectiveness of his/her presentation. At the end of the preparation period, the contestants should be ready to speak in an order determined by the lot.

The students will be scored on their (1) pronunciation, (2) fluency, (3) correctness of grammar, (4) richness of vocabulary, and (5) meaningfulness of content. State Rally participants in Foreign Language Extemporaneous Speaking are allowed to use foreign language dictionaries as a reference tool.

Interpretive Reading
(French, German, and Spanish)

Time Limit: Five Minutes

This event is open to first, second, third- and fourth-year students in French, German, or Spanish. It is suggested that short stories, significant excerpts from novels, or dramatic soliloquies be used as these provide the best material for this contest. However, contestants are free to choose any material whatsoever, prose or poetry, and are at liberty to adapt or cut it in any way necessary to fit the time allowed. The performing individual is expected to have memorized their selection but may occasionally glance at the text if necessary. Students will be penalized for too much dependence on the printed text. Three copies of each selection must be provided for the judges.

Students will be scored on their (1) pronunciation, (2) fluency, (3) memorization, (4) poise/interpretation, and (5) difficulty/length of text. The difficulty and length of the material will be taken into consideration in the judging process.

Note for French open event participants: The LSU Department of French recommends that subjects chosen for the French I Interpretive Reading event should be within the student's comprehension level and their French level. The adjudicators find it difficult to judge a student's performance if the task the student is trying to perform is beyond the student's reach. They

believe that Prevert poems, or La Fontaine fables, or perhaps excerpts from “La Lecon” by Ionesco would be better choices: they are linguistically not too difficult, the ideas are not very complicated, and yet they are worth memorizing because they can be cherished forever.

Thematic Expressions: Oral Presentations for Heritage Speakers

(Spanish)

Time limit: 5 minutes

This event is open to heritage speakers of Spanish, who possess an intermediate (mid/high) proficiency in spoken Spanish, as determined by ACTFL standards. Contestants are free to choose one of the cultural topics suggested below, develop it and present it within the allotted time of five minutes. Students may also choose their own topics that must have the approval of their Spanish teacher.

- **From Bean to Bar: A Transatlantic Journey of Chocolate**
- **The Poinsettia's Journey from Mexican Native to Global Holiday**
- **Economic and Cultural Significance of Coffee in Central America**
- **Soccer as a Cultural Phenomenon in Spain and Latin America**
- **Artistic Expressions of Day of the Dead Celebrations Across Different Regions**
- **The Rise of Digital Media and Its Impact on Spanish Language Broadcasting**

Students will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) organization, (2) structure, (3) vocabulary, (4) spelling and mechanics, and (5) content. Participants or representatives should report to the designated room for their event at the beginning of the scheduled hour. Contestants must submit their oral presentation outline with their online registration.

Note: For this contest, heritage speakers of Spanish are individuals who grow up exposed to Spanish either at home or in the community. These speakers have first learned Spanish naturally through interactions with family and community members rather than through formal education. At the Intermediate Mid-level, speakers demonstrate the ability to manage a range of tasks and respond to social situations using a broader vocabulary. They can discuss topics such as personal and family history, hobbies and interests, work, and current events while utilizing past, present, and future tenses, albeit with some inaccuracies. At the Intermediate High level, speakers achieve a sufficient level of accuracy to participate effectively in most practical and social situations. They are capable of narrating and describing events across different time frames and can adeptly handle situations with complications or unexpected developments, displaying confidence in a variety of communicative tasks.

Dramatic Skit
(German)

Time Limit: 15 minutes

This event is open to first, second, third, and fourth year students of German. Contestants are free to choose any dramatic material and to adapt it in order to fit the time allowed and the number in the cast. The performers are expected to have memorized their part. Three copies of each selection must be provided for use by the judges.

The students will be scored on (1) pronunciation, (2) fluency, (3) memorization, (4) organization, and (5) dramatic effect. Each participant or their representative must report for instruction to the room that has been assigned to his/her event and at the beginning of the designated hour of the event.

Special Open Foreign Language Literary Events
(German and Latin)

German

The test in German is multiple choice and assesses the student's abilities in grammar and reading comprehension.

Eligibility:
German I: Students with less than one (1) unit in German.
German II: Students with less than two (2) units in German.
German III: Students with less than three (3) units in German.

These events do not require qualification at a District Rally. Students do not need to be currently enrolled in a course to participate in any of the German literary events. No school may enter more than two students in each event. Students may not participate in the same event more than once.

Latin

The test in Latin is composed of nine parts that assess the student's abilities in the following areas: grammar, Roman life, mythology, history/geography, expressions, mottos, abbreviations, derivatives, and reading comprehension.

Eligibility:
Latin I: Students with less than one (1) unit in Latin.
Latin II: Students with less than two (2) units in Latin.

These events do not require qualification at a District Rally. Students do not need to be currently enrolled in a course to participate in any of the Latin literary events. No school may enter more than two students in each event. Students may not participate in the same event more than once.