

District 25 Middle School World Languages

BENEFITS OF LEARNING A LANGUAGE



1. GIVES YOUR BRAIN A BOOST

Several studies have demonstrated the cognitive benefits of learning another language, no matter how old you are. Memory improvement, longer attention span, and a reduced risk of age-related cognitive decline, are just a few of the known positive effects of speaking two or more languages.

2. YOU DEVELOP A CROSS CULTURAL CONNECTION

You'll be able to understand, appreciate, and communicate with people from other countries and cultures. If there's even *one* culture that you'd like to understand better, then one of the best ways you can start is by learning to speak their language.

3. OPENS UP A WORLD OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The world is changing fast. More companies than ever are doing business in several countries around the world. They accomplish this by searching for and hiring globally-minded people who can speak at least one foreign language.

4. YOU'LL BE A BETTER LEARNER

As you spend time learning your first foreign language, you'll start gaining momentum in your chosen language and learn more and more quickly. There is direct correlation between world language studies and higher test scores.

WHICH LANGUAGE INTERESTS YOU?
FRENCH, ITALIAN, OR SPANISH?



LANGUAGES AT SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thinking about French?

- French is an official language of more than 30 countries, and it is the working language of global organizations such as the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders. Also, a number of French and Canadian companies operate in America. □
- The French and English languages are linked. More than 35% of English originated from French, and it is estimated that a person who has never studied French already knows or would recognize over 15,000 words in French! □
- If art, literature, philosophy or science holds your interest, France has had a great impact on these areas of study. Monet, Hugo, Descartes, and Curie are only a few of the vast number of French people who have influenced American culture, cuisine, education and lifestyle.
- Are you interested in travel? Knowing French comes in handy when travelling in Canada, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.

Thinking about Italian?

- Unesco rated Italy as having more sites of historical importance than any other country and, with almost 60% of the world's arts treasures, speaking the language opens you up to a richer experience and understanding of its art and history.
- A recent study has shown that "Made in Italy" is the third most recognized brand in the world after Coca Cola and Visa. Italy is today one of the top economies in the world, with many employers seeking people who speak Italian. Over 7,000 American firms do business with Italy and over a thousand US companies have offices in Italy, including Chrysler, General Electric, ExxonMobil, IBM, and Citibank.
- Of all the romance languages, Italian is the closest to Latin and it is estimated that 60% of English words derive from Latin. Knowing Italian may help improve your scores in English.
- Italy's cultural importance spans from antiquity through the present, of which the Roman period and the Renaissance are perhaps the two most influential moments.

Thinking About Spanish?

- □ There are 50 million people in the United States who speak Spanish. Spanish is also spoken by 500 million people in the world. By 2050, 600 million people will be Spanish speakers.
- Knowing how to speak Spanish is a huge help when it comes to traveling. Spanish is spoken all over the world, including Mexico, Central America, South America, and Europe!
- Spanish is the official language of 21 countries and is the second largest native language in the world.
- The demand for bilingual workers is on the rise. A recent survey from employers across all sectors showed that 70% of companies anticipate hiring more Spanish speakers over the next ten years.