

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 world 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, GERMAN, OR SPANISH?

LANGUAGES AT THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHY 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 and even parts of South America and Asia.

WHY GERMAN?

- German is the most-spoken native language in the EU (European Union). It is a popular second language in Eastern European countries and it opens the door to Germanic languages like Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish that are not normally taught in US public schools. English is also a Germanic language and, therefore, has many similarities to German.
- Germany is an industrial giant in Europe. There are more than 1,100 subsidiaries of German-speaking countries in the US: Siemens, Bosch, Bayer, Adidas, Braun, and Mercedes-Benz. The European Central Bank (of Eurozone) is located in Frankfurt, Germany. Looking for a job? Set yourself apart from others by speaking German!
- Germany is second only to the US in the number of Nobel Prizes awarded in Chemistry. You can read academic texts in German, instead of depending on someone else's translation in chemistry, physics, biology, medicine, engineering, psychology, and archaeology.
- The German culture may be part of your heritage. One-fourth of all Americans have German ancestors. Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove were settled by German immigrant farmers. Grimm's Fairy Tales, the classical music of Beethoven and Mozart and "Kindergarten" have become part of the American culture.

WHY SPANISH?

- Spanish is the second most common language within the US and the number one choice for students who chose to study a world language in school.
- Spanish is spoken by more than 400 million people around the world and is currently the 4th most commonly spoken language worldwide. Within the US alone, there are approximately 35 million Spanish speakers, which is a number that continues to grow rapidly each year!
- Are you interested in traveling or possibly even studying abroad? Spanish is the official language in a total of 21 countries spread out across four of the seven continents. These 21 countries can be found in Central and South America and include the countries of Spain, Mexico and even a small country found in Africa. When seeking to practice your Spanish and immerse yourself in some new, culturally rich experiences abroad, the possibilities seem endless!
- In today's global economy, the ability to communicate is key, and as more companies expand internationally, the ability to communicate in another language has become a significant advantage in the workforce. In fact, many of today's jobs require a minimum of basic proficiency in at least one other language. If you speak fluent Spanish or another language and have proven yourself to be a capable employee, you are much more likely to land the job of your dreams than if you are monolingual.