

The following questions and answers are intended to help you understand the HASD World Languages Program.

Is one language more useful to learn than another?

All languages are useful in today's global society. Wisconsin businesses are expanding around the globe to Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Europe. Four out of every five new jobs are directly related to international trade. Knowledge of any second language is worthwhile.

Is one language easier than another?

All languages have their "easy" and "difficult" parts. The key to success is to begin the study of another language as early as possible. Language learning is a process and once you learn that process, you will find that you learn the third, fourth and fifth languages much more quickly.

How long will it take to learn a language?

How long it takes to learn a language depends on how much you want to be able to say, read, write, or understand. How long does it take to learn science? math? English? We want our students to study these subjects throughout their educational career because the more they know about those subjects, the more they can do with them. The more years they dedicate to learning a language the more proficient they will be. Learning a language continues for a lifetime!

Why start teaching a second language in elementary school?

All of the brain research documents that the younger a child begins studying a second language, the greater the success. An excellent foreign language program begins early and offers more than one language. Every other country in the industrialized world **requires** foreign language study at the elementary level. Young children absorb new vocabulary quickly and develop a sense of multicultural empathy towards their peers from different countries. They also reinforce their English language and critical thinking skills.

*World Languages
A 21st Century Skill*

Benefits of Language Study

Children who study a foreign language in elementary school...

1. have enough time to achieve fluency in the language.
2. maximize the brain's window of opportunity between birth and age 10 for easy language acquisition.
3. take advantage of the time when they are more receptive to learning about other cultures.
4. increase achievement in all other subject areas, thus increasing scores on tests, such as ACT and SAT.
5. develop stronger communication skills in their own language.
6. develop a higher degree of creativity.
7. encourage a higher self-concept.
8. reinforce skills and connect concepts being taught in many other subject areas.
9. broaden their career possibilities.
10. have a complete education that includes foreign language along with English, mathematics, computer science, social studies and natural sciences.

[\(A Nation at Risk: The Report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education](#)

A Parent's Guide to: World Languages at HASD



Guten Tag!

Spanish

German

World Languages

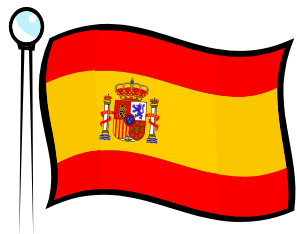
HASD World Languages Program awarded the Donna Clementi Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in World Language Programs



The Hortonville Area School District requires the study of a world language from grades two through seven.

In Greenville the language studied is Spanish and in Hortonville it is German. In the 7th grade students may elect to continue to study their “home” language or switch languages.

Students who continue their language study in high school can earn college credit and participate in language immersion trips to Germany or a Spanish speaking country .



WHY SO YOUNG?

Taken from the book entitled "A Taste for Language" by Mary Jo Ervin, the following statements reflect the views of the Hortonville Area School District as to why it is necessary and valuable to begin the study of a foreign at the elementary school level:

- the longer the period of exposure and interaction in a foreign language the greater the likelihood that the child will become fluent in the language.

- children are fascinated by the new sounds they are hearing and will try very hard to derive meaning from them.

- young children by nature are excellent mimics. They delight in role play and can easily adopt the behavior and speech mannerisms of a teacher or parent.

- children are less self-conscious about pronouncing strange words.

- children are accustomed to repetition and drill and delight in repeating. They are fast to become proud in their abilities in the foreign language.

- children who begin second language learning early and continue it, develop good listening habits and sound discrimination skills. As a result, they can obtain a higher level of these skills in their native language.

- studying a foreign language at a young age offers information to children that is being absorbed at a phenomenal rate. Children between the ages of 5 to 8 are like sponges and they enjoy correlating the new language with others areas of the school curriculum.

- children develop an early cultural awareness of a language and the people who speak it. They are intrigued by different customs and a longer sequence of language and culture study is beneficial to children personally and professionally. Second language acquisition provides a broad, creative basis upon which to live, work, and appreciate in this world.

What HASD Students Say about Language Learning

My favorite thing about learning another language is that it opens me up to a whole new world.

It's fun!

If you go on vacation to another country, you can understand what other people are saying .

You can be a translator.

It is good to learn about other cultures because it could help you become a more peaceful & tolerant person.

You can get into a good college.

When you know another language, you might be able to help someone and make people feel welcomed.

You can improve your English language skills.

Learning another language helped me realize that there is a lot more out there than just what we see here in Greenville.



Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem.

You live a new life for every new language you speak.
If you know only one language, you live only once.
(Czech proverb)