

# Bilingualism Brings Opportunity

Learn Another Culture!

Get Ahead!

Get a Better Job!



**The world is full of languages. How far do you have to go from your front door to know that this is true?**

**Think about how many more people and places you could really get to know, newspapers and books you could read, movies and TV programs you could understand, Web sites you could visit, with another language!**

## Give Yourself a Competitive Edge

*Did you know that studying a second language can improve your skills and grades in math and English and can improve entrance exam scores— SATs, ACTs, GREs, MCATs, and LSATs?*

Research has shown that math and verbal SAT scores climb higher with each additional year of foreign language study, which means that the longer you study a foreign language, the stronger your skills become to succeed in school. Studying a foreign language can improve your analytic and interpretive capacities. And three or four years of language study on your record will catch the eye of anyone reading your job or college application.

If you already speak a language other than English at home, expanding your knowledge of its vocabulary, grammar, culture, and literature— at the same time you are learning English— will also improve your chances for success in school and in your career.

## The Job Advantage in a Global Economy

*More and more businesses work closely with companies in other countries.*

They need many different kinds of workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures. No matter what career you choose, if you've learned a second language, you'll have a real advantage. A technician who knows Russian or German, the head of a company who knows Japanese or Spanish, or a salesperson who knows French or Chinese can work successfully with many more people and in many more places than someone who knows only one language.

*There are lots of Americans who speak languages other than English.*

If you've ever thought of being a nurse, a doctor, a police officer, an architect, a businessperson, a singer, a plumber, or a Web master, you will multiply your chances for success if you speak more than one language. A hotel manager or a customer- service representative who knows English and Spanish or English and Korean may look much better at promotion time than one who knows only English.

Professionals who know other languages are called on to travel and exchange information with people in other countries throughout their careers. Knowing more than one language enhances opportunities in government, business, health care, law enforcement, teaching, technology, the military, communications, industry, and marketing. An employer will see you as a bridge to new clients or customers if you know a second language.

## Learning Other Cultures: Your World and Beyond

**Get an insider's view of another culture and a new view of your own. Travel abroad on a CHS Foreign Exchange Trip to France, Germany, Spain or Costa Rica!**

*Connect with other cultures.*

Knowledge of other cultures will help you expand your personal horizons and become a responsible citizen. Your ability to talk to others and gather information beyond the world of English will contribute to your community and your country. Once you have gotten to know one foreign culture better, you have a new perspective from which to understand and appreciate many other cultures.

## What can you expect at WCHS?

At WCHS you will learn a second language in exciting new ways using technology and focusing on communication (speaking). Learning a language is not just learning grammar and vocabulary. It is learning new sounds, expressions, and ways of seeing things; it is learning how to function in another culture, how to know a new community from the inside out.

Foreign language classes are very social, with lots of group work, fun classroom activities and homework exercises which help you develop the good daily study skills you'll need to be successful.

Many have found that studying a language makes them better all-around students, and developing those skills which you begin in high school can help smooth the transition to college. Whenever you decide to study a language, you will learn not only that second language, but also a great deal about the structure of your own language and the values of your own culture.

## How much can you learn?

Depending on how long you study, you can gain different levels of fluency. You will probably not sound like a native speaker. Don't worry; you're not expected to. To a greater or lesser degree you will, however, be understood, get where you want to go, read magazines or books for information or pleasure, and meet and talk with a whole new group of people. You can't imagine what a great experience that is. Of course, it doesn't happen overnight. Like math, English, or other subjects, language learning takes time.



## Did you know?

... Only 7% of the world's people speak English as their native language but 90% of all Americans cannot understand any language other than English.

... Studies show that learning a foreign language improves reading scores in English as well as mental flexibility, creativity and high level thinking.

... A Princeton University study shows that competency in a foreign language is one of the five top skills needed in today's job market.

... Foreign language study has a significant effect on verbal ability in the native language. High school foreign language students perform significantly better on the SAT verbal and the scores increase with each half year of foreign language study. Students of lower socioeconomic background who studied a foreign language performed on par with more affluent peers.

## University admission and graduation

Most colleges and universities desire foreign language study for admission and require study of a foreign language for graduation. Continued foreign language study is seen as the best, most consistent, predictor of college success.

The following regional Universities require TWO years of a foreign language or Fine Arts electives for admission and possibly to earn a bachelor's degree:

University of Illinois  
Illinois State University  
Northern Illinois University  
Southern Illinois University  
University of Illinois Chicago  
Eastern Illinois University  
Western Illinois University  
University of Wisconsin  
Illinois Wesleyan College  
Northwestern University  
University of Michigan  
Michigan State University

## Source Information

Modesto California Public Schools

[http://www.monet.k12.ca.us/fl/why\\_take\\_a\\_for\\_lang.htm](http://www.monet.k12.ca.us/fl/why_take_a_for_lang.htm)