

K-5 World Language/Foreign Language Survey Tally

9.20.07

K-5 World Language/Foreign Language Survey

1. Would you support the teaching of a world language (foreign language), in addition to English, at the elementary (K-5) level? Yes 176 No 9 Undecided 10
2. Please explain the reasons for your answer to Question #1.

3. If a second language were taught in elementary school, what language would you like to see taught?
 - a. First language preference _____
 - b. Second language preference _____
 - c. Third language preference _____

Thank you!

Please mail and return this postage paid postcard by Friday, August 24, 2007.

*the notes below are taken exactly as written - no grammar/punctuation corrections were made

2. Please explain the reasons for your answer to Question #1.

YES:

*Every other country in the world learn 2+ languages – we should to.

*1. Increases awareness/appreciation/interest of diff. Language/cultures in the world (in our own country/city) 2. Increases awareness/appreciation/interest of the English language (using & learning comparisons with foreign language) 3. Research indicates children to learn & retain diff. Languages better than adults. *Plus what was mentioned in the letter+.

*I agree it benefits to begin a foreign language early.

*We are currently working with our 3 year old and she is picking up a second language with ease. Now is the time to do it.

*early learning is essential

*The world is growing in many different cultures & communication is key

*I've heard that learning languages is easier if begun very early. Being bi-lingual is an advantage for many careers.

*We live in a society of bi- and mono-linguism, and would like our child to keep pace with these demands.

It's very important to learn languages while young – much easier!

*to expose my child to other cultures.

*Cultural diversity, keeping up with other area school districts, global growth

*my son is Hispanic and would like him to learn more spanish

*I believe that language is the key to unlock the door to education.

*I would stress teaching only basics, it should be fun not stressful. Increasing amount of Spanish speaking people in the population.

*Kids have a better chance of learning language at a younger age.

*Our society is quite bilingual.

*I think it would be beneficial to children to learn early on about other cultures and languages – expose them to new and different things

*Diversity in the growing global market

Yes comments cont.

- *Learning languages helps children in all other academic areas – and its fun! ☺
- *I think they learn very quickly at that age.
- *I believe children will easier pick up a second language when introduced at a younger age.
- *I think it is a wonderful opportunity for our children.
- *I think knowledge of other languages is critical for our childrens' futures. The world is only getting smaller, and they will need other languages to be competitive in the work force.
- *Children hear Foreign Languages better at a young age (pre-lateralization of the brain) & foreign language learning improves performance in most other areas of study.
- *Help children appreciate other cultures and be more open to diverse backgrounds.
- *Increased cultural awareness & sensitivity
- *The earlier a child is exposed to another language, the easier it is to learn. It gives the child an advantage.
- *diversity, proven correlation to overall increased academic performance ethnic awarness
- *I have read that students can learn a new language easier when exposed to it at an early age!
- *It may be essential for the next generation to be fluent in another world language for success in their careers. I have also read studies that support the theory that learning a 2nd language actually enhances a childs primary language.
- *learning a second (or third or fourth) language is essential for success in our global world of business. It creates more opportunities for people who are multi-lingual
- *Small children learn so quickly – perfect timing; Spanish or bi-lingual skills are now required for many jobs; They are already hearing & seeing Spanish in the community
- *It is very important as well as beneficial to know or speak more than one language.
- *Early language development pears to be the way
- *The earlier – the better.
- *About 15 years ago, I was involved in a program where high school student visited the elementary school to teach German – 2 to 3 times a week for 4-6 weeks. I am well aware of the benefits of teaching a foreign language to young children versus waiting until they are older.
- *The earlier a child starts a foreign language, the better retention.
- *Children absorb a second language much easier than when taught later in life. I thought you did teach Spanish. I guess it was Lowell, where Jessie went for Kindergarten.
- *I believe foreign languages are very important – access to other cultures. Plus, younger children learn languages more easily.
- *Great opportunity for you learners!
- *I agree 100% with these findings. I would LOVE for my daughter to learn any new languages offered to better prepare her for our changing world and foreign travels.
- *As we are living in an increasingly global society, it is important for citizens to understand other cultures as well as speaking another language. By starting early, we are helping our children become more proficient.
- *As a teacher in a different school district that will be implementing world languages, I am aware of the positive impact it can have on my child's education. My wife and I are in full support of this.
- *The best time to learn a second language is during elementary school. I would also like to give my child an advantage in our diverse society.
- *I support teaching a 2nd language in LATE elementary school (i.e. grade 5). Children should be able to grasp the ENGLISH language thoroughly prior to learning a second language.
- *I believe it's good to expose children early to help them learn more easily as they get into middle & high school.
- *I believe that it is easier to learn when you are young. It allows them to befriend new students. It is a low pressure introduction to functional words.
- *I would love for my children to be exposed at this early age to a foreign language. I think they would easily learn it.
- *Helps improve learning in all area, increases tolerance, good for diversity.

Yes comments cont.

*I think it would be a great opportunity for students – it is also high interest for them. I am curious at what grade level this would begin & if it is added – would something else be omitted from the curriculum?

*It is a global economy and the US needs to learn languages beyond English. The earlier we start this the more of an appreciation the kids will have for other cultures and people. Also, it is easier to learn at 5 years old over 25 years old. Also, one more comment. From what I read, you want to phase this in one year at a time. I wish you would start it for all K-5 grades at once not the class of 2022 or 2023 as the starting point.

*I feel the exposure to a foreign language at the younger ages, prepares them better for learning it more proficiently at the later grades. I currently send my elementary child to Spanish class after school.

*Whether “we” like it or not, Spanish especially is becoming a “big business” in the states. It’s easier for children to grow up being bi-lingual and will only help them in their futures. Thanks!

*We are just about the only country in the world that is not at least bi-lingual. That is just not right!

*Communication is the key to peace. We need to communicate with others in our community. Spanish & Chinese-Mandarin are needed to do business in the world.

*We need to give our children the best chances to succeeding in this world – a 2nd language is one of the tools they can use! I’m not convinced that this is the age to start them at – but it’s worth a try!

*Early exposure to a 2nd language has many benefits. I always wondered why schools waited until Jr. High and High school.

*Similar to those you gave, plus the increasing global society suggests it is a good idea. Language knowledge also promotes cross-cultural awareness & compassion.

*It’s a necessary skill to have in the 21st century. ~We support this initiative wholeheartedly!!!

*Many jobs require multilingual skills. Our culture (including my generation) lacks in these skills.

*-makes children better global citizens –improves academic strengths –better career opportunities

*Why would any oppose this? The better we can communicate with others – the better the world!

*Bring multi-lingual is a definite asset to our children’s futures & has become a necessity.

*The world is increasingly global, but support only as long as the teaching of basic skills is not impacted.

*It is the best time to learn another language.

*Best age to learn boosts academic performance.

*Children are most receptive to foreign language study at this age.

*Boosts academic performances.

*It is thought that the younger the child is taught a second language, the easier it is from them to learn it. It is also thought that exposure to a second language increases their literacy in English.

*As long as it didn’t take away from other curricular standards. Children learn foreign languages so quickly and easily. It would only benefit them in the future.

*Because over half of Europeans are fluent in another language besides their home languages and less than 10% Americans can say the same. Also think it can improve brain function in general. And, it is becoming more important in this world economy to learn other languages.

*ABSOLUTELY Children learn different languages **much** easier than older kids. My nephew did a Spanish immersion program k-5 and now, 4 years later, his Spanish is awesome. Anything you could teach them with different languages would be awesome!

*Because knowledge is power

*Any extra learning opportunity is good if it doesn’t compromise other classes like music and art

*I already have my 4-year-old twins enrolled in a Spanish immersion class (Preschool of the Arts) and I’d like them to continue Spanish at Monona Grove. Now is the time for them to learn! Thanks.

*I agree that it will improve career opportunities.

*As someone who works in the field of international business I know first hand the importance of learning a 2nd language. We are BEHIND the times compared to other developed countries – This is a step in the right direction. Keep up the great work!

*only in gr. 1-5 not in kindergarten

Yes comments cont.

- *I feel at a disadvantage not knowing another language proficiently
 - *It is the best time for a person to learn a foreign language and s/he is less likely to have an accent. Also, it is good for brain development and will offer more job opportunities.
 - *my child currently learns Spanish 2 times/week at her daycare. I would like to see her continue this in Kindergarten.
 - *We are extremely interested in this program! (We've actually considered the Waunakee district b/c they have a similar program.) We would love to see this program in MG district. We strongly support bilingual language development! I would be interested in being on the task force! Kira Femrite 839-4202
 - *Exploit natural ability and the age. Promote diversity. Encourages bi-lingual later in life.
 - *I feel a foreign language is a great asset in today's society.
 - *Absolutely-- Children learn different languages much easier than older kids...Anything you can teach them with different languages would be awesome.
 - *The younger they begin in a foreign language, the better they will retain/grasp the language.
 - *I believe with the way the world is today, knowledge and fluency in other languages is going to be necessary, especially our need to learn Chinese.
 - *Learning a language earlier in your life would be easier. It would also benefit the child in the future for employment.
 - *Whatever the language taught, kids' thinking and cultural frame of reference will benefit from the experience. Developmentally it's a great idea as their minds are so open to different sounds and graphisms.
 - *In a global economy, one is better prepared if they speak multiple languages.
 - *Good to begin another language so kids grow up bilingual.
 - *Easy to learn while younger and there is some benefits to understanding world languages/foreign languages.
 - *Having a second language is vital to an educated society. The earlier we introduce our children to another language, the higher chance we have that they will want to continue and absorb it more.
 - *We feel it would be beneficial for our children to have a second language.
 - *It is a very important tool to use in understanding other people in this world and not pre-judge, but have an open mind to new things they bring into your world and that can enrich your own life.
 - *We strongly believe that the earlier children are exposed to foreign language, the better! We already do this in our home. Great idea!
 - *In an increasingly global workforce, I believe it will become necessary, not optional, for both of my children to be proficient in at least one language in addition to English.
 - *I think in the world today, it's crucial to speak multiple languages. Research has shown how important it is to start language development EARLY! Middle school is too late.
 - *It is a global society and the sooner we immerse our children in other languages, the better.
 - *Students are "open" to learning languages at a very young age. Middle school seems too late to start.
 - *Easier to learn at a younger age; I attended a French immersion public elementary school, and it had an amazing influence on my ability to learn and speak a foreign language. Having a similar opportunity, even if only once a week, would be a great benefit to our students and community. Learning another language also leads the way for a deeper understanding and appreciation of other cultures.
 - *In today's global economy, it is necessary for American students to be fluent in multiple languages in order to compete internationally. Besides, most other nations require their students to be fluent in both the native language and English. Why shouldn't we?
 - *I feel that learning a second language is important for cultural diversity and also for the future advantages including career opportunities.
 - *This is so vital to children. They are still in the age-appropriate range for retaining more information and being able to retrieve it.
 - *Invaluable to begin at an early age. Most future job potentials will depend on bi-lingual employees.
- ~ Many (approx. 50) more YES comments than I had time to type (as I ran out of time, I chose to type comments that seemed different than previously recorded)**

NO:

- *English should be 1st priority
- *Other topics are more important. You can't teach everyone's pet project.
- *This nation's primary language is English. Too many students are not mastering our language. Adding a 2nd language to the curriculum is not necessary.
- *Kids have a hard enough time learning English. I think after 5th is ok.
- *Because they will receive it in middle school. They are just learning so many new things that a foreign language shouldn't be a focus during this time.
- *Because we live in America. Where English should be the only language!
- *We feel foreigners moving here should learn English as we would learn their language moving there.
- *Given the current budget problems, I believe we should focus on keeping what we have as strong as it should be. Money has a limit and we should use it WISELY!!! If other areas suffer, what good is all the pluses you state about language.
- *1. Spend more time on math, science and english. 2. I thought the "state imposed" spending limits didn't allow for new expenditures. Try saving some money for the taxpayers.

UNDECIDED:

- *Would it be optional? Would this replace another subject? What would be removed to make this happen: I think it is a great idea but am curious how it would fit into the current curriculum.
- *I am completely against the total immersion method I've heard about at one of the east Madison schools. The child will supposedly be bilingual by 3rd grade. I strongly feel English is the main language.
- *What would be cut in order for this class to fit in an already busy day?
- *Would support it if it didn't require other programs to be cut. I think it is important to offer-as an option for those who wish to participate at a minimum
- *I'm not sure with all the other cuts happening if we should allocate resources to this.
- *I would prefer more time spent on basics such as math, reading, and science. I also would be concerned about what a world language would be replacing. If it is not replacing something, then it must mean time for a variety of things is being cut short, this also concerns me.
- *Currently there is insufficient funding to support ESL students to learn English in our district. We only support K-5 foreign language if it does not take away from ESL funding.
- *So much to learn K-5 already – reading & writing English is my main concern as a parent.
- *I would rather they had adequate time to eat lunch and maybe more time spent in areas like reading and math if there's actually room to add another class to their day.
- *How can you put anymore into the kids day ~ What will they have to give up or miss???

3. If a second language were taught in elementary school, what language would you like to see taught?

| Language | First language preference | Second language preference | Third language preference | total for each lang. preference |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Spanish | 161 | 16 | 3 | 180 |
| French | 4 | 49 | 33 | 86 |
| Sign Lang. | 3 | 36 | 16 | 55 |
| German | 2 | 16 | 18 | 36 |
| Japanese | | 18 | 12 | 30 |
| Chinese / Mandarin | 4 | 11 | 6 | 21 |
| Arabic | | 2 | 10 | 12 |
| Italian | | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Latin | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| Hmong | | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Hindu | | | 2 | 2 |
| Ukrainian | | 1 | | 1 |
| Russian | | 1 | | 1 |
| Korean | | | 1 | 1 |