

PRESS RELEASE



Foreign Language Study Creates A World Of Growth Opportunities

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In the Spanish classroom for primary and intermediate students at Independent Day School - Corbett Campus (IDS-CC), five-year olds clamor around a colorful paper model of a house eager to learn the names of rooms in Spanish. In the middle school language lab, sixth graders practice new grammar skills using sophisticated software and headphones.

There's a whole lot more going on in these classrooms, however, than what meets the eye.

Research shows that studying a foreign language creates an abundance of opportunities for student growth and success, in addition to benefits that last a lifetime. Analyzing and higher order thinking skills increase. Creativity gets a boost. English skills including reading comprehension improve. Standardized test scores rise. Listening skills and memory are enhanced. Openness and appreciation of other cultures is developed. Future job opportunities multiply. Self-concept and sense of achievement expand.

That's why the study of Spanish is an integral component of the IDS curriculum beginning in the earliest pre-kindergarten classes when children are three and four years old, throughout middle school to eighth grade,

"Research shows that language instruction opens up pathways in the brain when it is introduced at a young age. Therefore, the earlier in life children begin to study a second language, the faster they are able to learn it," said Sonia Morgan, who along with Odette Figueruelo and Charmaine Jennings comprise the IDS-CC Spanish team.

"One of our goals is to help students become fully immersed with Spanish," said Jennings who teaches grades six through eight. "This is accomplished by exposing them to the language as well as the culture, writing, music, dance - everything about it. This helps to build confidence so that when our students continue with Spanish in high school, they can do it with self-assurance, knowing how to effectively utilize a variety of resources."

The Spanish team addresses every type of student learning style as they cultivate communication and language skills, as well as an understanding of other cultures. To support that goal, the teachers are continuing to consider options for educational summer trips to historical cities in Spain and Paris, open to both students and families, to extend learning outside the classroom,

"This would be a wonderful educational adventure filled with culture, practical opportunities to use the language, and lots of fun," said Figueruelo. "Those who joined us on our trip to Spain in June 2005 returned with a greater appreciation for the practical benefits of studying a foreign language. In addition, students were even more excited about continuing to develop their skills back in the classroom."

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County with 550 students from Pre-K3 through 8th grade. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 2,000 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit <http://www.idsy.es.com>.

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