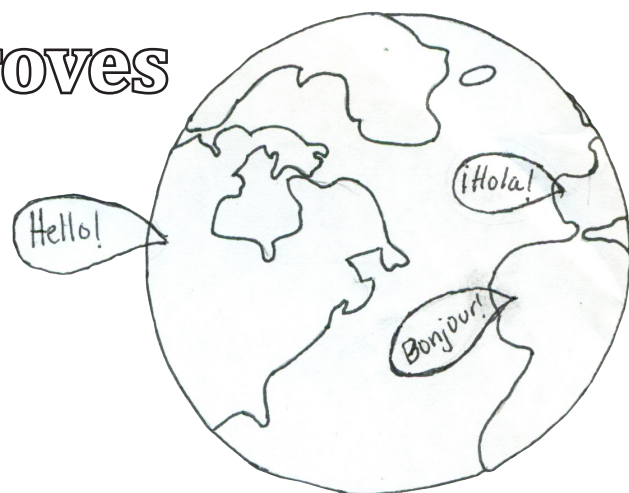


Learning second language proves valuable in many regards



Italia Caro
Editor

Today's world is becoming more connected, as a result of an increase in global trade and the relative ease of travel with the technological advancements made, which resulted in the intertwinement of different cultures. Due to the ties across the world, it is important for people to learn a second language, not only for the global connection, but also for employment and brain growth.

As the benefits and need for knowledge of a second language grow, the education of a second language has been included in schools across the world. The fact that German, Spanish and French are offered at FCHS speaks to its importance and the impact it can have.

"I think overall, it's one of those things where it just opens up so many doors, and so many opportunities," Spanish teacher Jody Snow said.

Learning a second language does create more opportunities; along with new paths, new benefits can be acquired in learning another language. One example of a positive is understanding your native language better.

"It helps you with your English—if English is your first language, learning a second language helps you with that first language to understand it better," Snow said.

In addition, the knowledge of another language goes beyond the educational setting. In the economy, according to CNN, as more jobs open with a need for bilingualism, candidates for a job who have a good

understanding of another language, have a better chance of getting the job.

In addition, learning a second language contributes to cognitive development. As observed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), people who understand another language have a long attention span and have more activity in the brainstem when speech is received in the brain.

The brain development benefits extend past the cognitive and into the emotional. Bilingual children have shown more traits of empathy compared to other children who don't understand more than one language, according to The Atlantic. This evidence suggests that the earlier children start learning a second language, the earlier they acquire these skills.

AXIS International Academy, a local elementary school, focuses on bilingualism by teaching all subjects in two languages, with the day divided in two: one half of the day is spent learning in English, and the other half of the day is spent learning in one of the other languages offered. They teach Mandarin Chinese, Spanish or French. This style of learning helps the students develop skills and traits and gain more possible paths in their futures. The knowledge of a different language will bring these kids many opportunities, including employment and travel.

"Your experiences are so much richer when you can speak the language. Having traveled to Spanish speaking countries and non-Spanish speaking countries, there's a sense of freedom, you can speak the language of the place where you're traveling," Snow said.

Language study is not just a graduation requirement; it has utility in many other ways: brain development, opportunities, and deeper connections to the world in which we live, making learning another language one of the most important aspects of our education.

World Language Facts

Top 5 spoken languages:

1. Mandarin Chinese
2. Spanish
3. English
4. Hindi
5. Arabic

Top languages studied worldwide:

- French: 82 million learners
- Spanish: 14.5 million learners
- Italian: 8 million learners
- Chinese: 30 million learners
- German: 14.5 million learners
- Japanese: 3 million learners
- English: 1.5 billion learners

Information gathered by Italia Caro, source: Washington Post, ef.edu
Graphic by Rue Robertson and Italia Caro

Immature vandals burden custodial staff

"Since writing on toilet walls is done neither for critical acclaim, nor financial rewards, it is the purest form of art"—not.

Humans, as a species, have often tried their hardest to avoid talking face to face, the methods ranging from smoke signals to letter writing to texting. We even have a custom involving writing letters to strangers. The concept of the "Pen Pal" has extended to social platforms, and more recently the bathroom stalls.

Since the beginning of this semester, the typical graffiti on the walls of the bathroom stalls has gotten worse in both volume and content.

These messages on the toilet walls include some words of positivity, but most have devolved into base negativity and gross sexual harassment.

Immature, vulgar, and offensive images illustrate many of the messages.

Some of those who wrote on the walls quoted a popular phrase—"since writing on toilet walls is done neither for critical acclaim, nor financial rewards, it is the purest form of art"—in an attempt to defend their vandalism.

When confronted through sticky-note responses, an anonymous writer deflected the issue onto politics and how society is treating blue collar workers today.

Yet graffiti hurts our custodians. Instead of making it hard for them, we should do what we can to make it easier.

Head Custodial Supervisor Donna Kramer

STAFF ED

said that it takes over two hours to clean a bathroom, and that issues like this can extend the time to an entire day. To fully fix the issue, our janitors may have to shut down the restrooms because of the amount of paint that will have to be used.

It not only costs the staff time and effort, but in some cases their health. The chemicals used to clean permanent marker can be harsh and inhaling the fumes of these markers can harm the lungs.

The simplest reason those who are vandalizing the stalls should stop is how immature and cringy it is. Even if we do not end up losing access to the toilets as the staff works to clean the restrooms, the words and images make us uncomfortable doing our business with drawings of genitalia and childish, profanity-riddled fights filling our views.

Many students go to the restroom to take a break and calm down when emotionally distressed, and the insults can easily add to peoples' trouble. So not only is it unhealthy for the people working on it, but our mental and educational health as well.

The person or people writing and drawing on the walls of the stalls should consider others and stop assaulting us all with their vulgar vandalism.



This mushroom was recently drawn on the door of a bathroom stall. Photo by Emily Fox-Million