

FOR JUNIOR, BETH DANIEL, PICKING A LANGUAGE WASN'T THE EASIEST CHOICE. HERE IN CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLERS CAN TAKE FRENCH, SPANISH, OR GERMAN. IN HIGH SCHOOL, STUDENTS CAN STILL TAKE THEIR MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE BUT NOW HAVE THE OPTION TO TAKE CHINESE, JAPANESE, HEBREW, LATIN, OR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND BETH'S CONFUSION.

[BETH INTERVIEW]

*COMING INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL, IT WAS ACTUALLY SORT OF HARD FOR ME TO PICK A LANGUAGE. I WAS MAINLY FOCUSED ON WHETHER I WANTED TO DO FRENCH OR SPANISH. UM. FRENCH IS A REALLY GLOBAL LANGUAGE. IT'S GOING TO HELP YOU A LOT AROUND THE WORLD BUT SINCE I PLAN TO STAY IN THE UNITED STATES AND PURSUE A CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES UM. I THOUGHT THAT SPANISH WOULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR ME. I READ THIS ONE STATISTIC AND IT WAS LIKE "BY TWENTY FIFTY, HAVE OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION WILL BE OF SPANISH ORIGIN". I SO THINK THAT IT'S REALLY HELPFUL IN TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE.*

MANY SCHOOLS, LIKE CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL, REQUIRE STUDENTS TO TAKE COURSES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN ORDER TO GRADUATE. BUT DO STUDENTS, LIKE BETH, ACTUALLY BENEFIT FROM LEARNING A LANGUAGE IN SCHOOL? I'M KENDALL FAHEY AND THIS IS IS PARLERAI.

[BETH INTERVIEW]

*I THINK THAT ONE OF THE DRAWBACKS THAT I HAVE SEEN LEARNING A LANGUAGE THROUGH SCHOOL IS THAT YOU DON'T GET TO APPLY THE LANGUAGE AS MUCH IN A REAL WORLD SETTING SO OBVIOUSLY IN THE CLASSROOM YOU CAN HAVE MINI OPBRAS, WHICH ARE SHORT, LITTLE PLAYS, OR YOU CAN HAVE PRESENTATIONS BUT THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY HOW YOU ARE GOING TO ENCOUNTER SPANISH IN THE REAL WORLD. YOU ARE NOT TALKING IN THE MANNER THAT YOU WOULD ENCOUNTER SPANISH IN THE REAL WORLD AND I THINK THAT ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE TEACHERS TRY TO ENCOURAGE I-U HONORS WHICH ALLOW YOU TO BE IMMersed IN THE LANGUAGE AND APPLY IT IN REAL SETTINGS SO I JUST THINK THAT THAT IS ONE OF THE MAIN DRAWBACKS BUT I FEEL LIKE HERE AT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL THEY GIVE YOU THE TOOL NECESSARY TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THAT SITUATION BUT YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE THAT EXPERIENCE SO IT IS UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU TAKE THAT PATH AND TRY TO APPLY IT WITHIN REAL WORLD SETTINGS.*

BETH IS CURRENTLY IN SPANISH FOUR WHICH IS ONE OF THE HIGHER LEVELS OF LANGUAGE CLASSES AT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL. SHE SAYS THAT THE CLASS IS MORE FULL IMMERSION BASED THAN THE LOWER LEVELS WHICH SHE LIKES AND SHE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO ENJOYS THAT WAY OF LEARNING.

LANGUAGE TEACHERS LIKE FRENCH TEACHER KIM MANLICK SAY THAT FULL IMMERSION IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE.

[MANLICK INTERVIEW]

*I THINK IN THE PERFECT WORLD IT WOULD BE TOTAL IMMERSION BUT WE DON'T HAVE A PERFECT WORLD WITHIN A CLASSROOM SETTING IN A SCHOOL. UM YES THAT WOULD BE IDEAL. THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND PLACES LIKE THAT TEACH ALL THE CLASSES IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE. UM I THINK IT WOULD BE GREAT. I DON'T THINK IT'S PRACTICAL FOR OUR SCHOOLS AS THEY STAND BUT HOPEFULLY WE... WE INSITE IN OUR STUDENTS A LOVE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING WHICH IN TURN GIVES THEM A DESIRE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD AND ENHANCE THEIR LANGUAGE FURTHER BY VISITING A HOST COUNTRY.*

LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM, NO MATTER IF IT IS TAUGHT IN FULL IMMERSION OR NOT, CAN BE VERY DIFFERENT THAN LEARNING FROM A PROGRAM LIKE ROSETTA STONE. COMPARED TO A BOOK OR APP, LESSONS IN SCHOOLS OFFER A MORE AUDITORY AND CULTURAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

[MANLICK INTERVIEW]

*I THINK LANGUAGES HAVE TO HAVE A PERSONAL TOUCH. UM I THINK ITS COMMUNICATION SO SO MUCH IS CONVEYED IN COMMUNICATION THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WORDS. RIGHT? HOW YOU LOOK, EXPRESSIONS, GESTURES. SO I THINK LEARNING IT ON AN APP. I MEAN I THINK THAT IT CAN ENHANCE ANY LANGUAGE LEARNING BUT I THINK REALLY THE PERSONAL, THE EYE-TO-EYE, THE TEINT-A-TEINT IS REALLY THE WAY TO DO IT. CERTAINLY GOING TO THE TARGET COUNTRY... YOU KNOW FRANCE OR WHATEVER IS THE BEST WAY TO ACTUALLY LEARN A LANGUAGE.*

HOWEVER, IN SCHOOLS, STUDENTS ONLY RECEIVE A FEW HOURS OF LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK THROUGHOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL. THE ONLY OUTSIDE REINFORCEMENT OF THAT KNOWLEDGE IS THROUGH THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNED. FEW STUDENTS EVER EXPERIENCE THE LANGUAGE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM.

SCHOOLS, LIKE CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL, REQUIRE STUDENTS TO TAKE A LEAST A FEW YEARS OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. THE REASON BEHIND REQUIRED LANGUAGE LEARNING IS THE SOCIOLOGICAL IDEA OF MULTICULTURALISM. IT'S THE IDEA OF COEXISTENCE OF SEVERAL CULTURES IN THE SAME AREA WITHOUT THE DOMINATION OF ONE, SINGLE CULTURE. SCHOOLS HAVE STUDENTS LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE IN HOPES THAT THEY WILL BECOME MORE AWARE OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND CULTURES. THEREFORE DECREASING RACISM, SEXISM, AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. ACCORDING TO THE ASIA SOCIETY, AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES THE GLOBAL CONNECTION BETWEEN ASIA AND AMERICA, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NEED TO BECOME READY FOR THE GLOBAL WORLD. THEY PUSH FOR TEACHING LANGUAGES IN THE CLASSROOM TO HELP CHILDREN BECOME INFORMED OF THEIR COUNTRY AND THE GLOBAL SOCIETY. NOW, IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY, THE WORLD IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONNECTED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS. ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE ASIA SOCIETY ARE WORKING TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE BETTER PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.

[MANLICK INTERVIEW]

*IT OPENS THE WORLD TO YOU. UM ANYONE CAN GO TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY BUT IF YOU CAN SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF THAT COUNTRY YOU HAVE THEN OPEN THE DOOR TO THE CULTURE OF THAT COUNTRY AND YOU CAN FEEL THE COUNTRY AND KNOW THE PEOPLE AND THE CUSTOMS AND I THINK, YOU KNOW, JUST SO MANY KIDS TELL ME "I UNDERSTAND MY OWN LANGUAGE BETTER NOW BECAUSE I NOW UNDERSTAND WHAT A VERB CONJUGATION IS OR, WELL THAT'S NOT A GOOD EXAMPLE BECAUSE WE GROW UP DOING IT BUT, UM. I THINK THAT IT JUST OPENS EVERYTHING. IT OPENS CULTURE. IT OPENS GRAMMAR. IT OPENS SOUNDS THAT WE ARE NOT USED TO MAKING.*

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT EARLY LANGUAGE LEARNING IMPROVES COGNITIVE SKILLS. IN A STUDY BY FOSTER AND REEVES IN NINETEEN EIGHTY NINE, SEVENTY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS WERE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS THAT DIFFERED BY LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM.

THERE WAS A CONTROL GROUP OF TWENTY FIVE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED NO FRENCH INSTRUCTION AND THREE GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED FRENCH LESSONS. FOR SIX AND A HALF, FIFTEEN AND A HALF OR TWENTY FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS, THESE STUDENTS RECEIVED THIRTY MINUTES OF FRENCH DAILY AFTER THEY RECEIVED 30 MINUTES OF READING IN ENGLISH. INSTEAD OF 30 MINUTES OF FRENCH, THE CONTROL GROUP JUST GOT MORE READING TIME.

WHEN THE EXPERIMENT WAS DONE, EACH STUDENT TOOK A SERIES OF DIFFERENT TESTS AND THE RESULTS SHOWED THE STUDENTS WHO HAD RECEIVED FRENCH LESSONS SCORED HIGHER ON THE TESTS. ALSO THE STUDENTS WHO STUDIED FRENCH THE LONGEST PERFORMED THE BEST.

THESE TYPES OF EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN USED WITH TWO YEAR OLDS WITH HEBREW AND ENGLISH AND FIVE YEAR OLDS WITH FRENCH AND ITALIAN AND ALL FOUND THE SAME RESULT. BILINGUAL CHILDREN HAVE A HIGH COGNITIVE ABILITY.

LEARNING A LANGUAGE THROUGH SCHOOL CAN GIVE NEW LANGUAGE LEARNERS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED FROM TEACHERS AND PEERS. ALTHOUGH LEARNING A LANGUAGE MAY BE REQUIRED IN SCHOOLS, THEY AREN'T DOING IT IN VAIN. IT REALLY DOES HAVE BENEFITS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM NO MATTER IF THEY CONTINUE LEARNING. BACK AT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL, BET DANIEL IS APPRECIATING THE BENEFITS FROM HER GROWING BI-LINGUALISM.

*I THINK IT REALLY HELPS WITH YOUR CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS. SO WHEN YOU ARE APPROACHING ANYTHING, NOT NECESSARILY UM JUST A TEST, BUT ANY UM EXPERIENCE IN LIFE AS A WHOLE, YOU SORT OF HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON THAT. AND IF YOU ARE SPEAKING ONE LANGUAGE, YOU ARE SORT OF IN THIS ONE BOX MODE, PER SAY. SO YOU ARE THINKING STRAIGHT BUT IF YOU ARE*

*EXPOSED TO MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE IT SORT OF GIVE YOU THAT EDGE IN A SENSE THAT YOU HAVE MORE EXPOSURE SO YOU HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE AND I THINK IT JUST REALLY HELPS WITH YOUR CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WHICH IS REALLY NECESSARY ESPECIALLY AS OUR GLOBE CONTINUES TO UM MOVE TOWARDS INCREASED GLOBALIZATION WITH A MIX OF DIFFERENT CULTURES.*

*[DIFFERENT SECTION]*

*I REALLY ENJOY SPANISH AND THIS YEAR HAS REALLY PROVEN THAT TO ME. GROWING UP, I ALWAYS WANTED TO JOIN MEDICINE AND THAT WAS MY MAIN PATH LIKE I'M GOING TO BE A DOCTOR AND NOW I THINK I'M GOING TO MINOR IN SPANISH. I MEAN I REALLY ENJOY IT AND I REALLY WANT TO DO A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM TO SPAIN IF I CAN IN COLLEGE AND THAT'S A LOT THANKS TO SPANISH*

*FOUR.*

I'M KENDALL FAHEY WITH PARLERIA. THIS EPISODE WAS PRODUCED IN THE WHJE STUDIOS IN CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL. FOR MORE STORIES LIKE THIS, VISIT W-H-J-E DOT COM.