

K-12 WORLD LANGUAGE

WHAT WE KNOW

Community

- The earlier, the better
- All are capable
- Benefits are numerous – cultural connection
- Community-wide commitment required
- Misperceptions about language acquisition are numerous
- Auditory immersion is the first step

Teachers

- Early age introduction of immersion or dual language is less work and more effective
- To learn a language instruction must be regular and consistent
- Students acquire language at different rates
- Two years of language study does not equal fluency
- World languages are becoming increasingly important

Parents

- Language acquisition is a life long process
- Language acquisition is easier when you begin at a young age.
- This generation of kids will be part of a more global world and will need to have awareness of other cultures including language
- Other countries typically require a second world language as part of their kindergarten - ? curriculum
- Kids/adults will learn language more efficiently through immersion than a class a week
- Learning language teaches cultural/global awareness and self awareness
- “This” develops higher level thinking
- Earlier, consistent study develops greatest competency
- The closer to “immersion” the better
- This will be a long process
- Language study prepares “us” for the international work world (and a richer life).