

Grade 6 Exploratory Language/Language Discovery

Overview

In middle school, this is a single semester, non-high school credit, elective course in which students are introduced to the world of languages. The course emphasizes the culture or cultures associated with the language and acquiring basic communication skills through age-appropriate activities. Languages offered vary from campus to campus.

Students will . . .

- Use the language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing.
- Explore aspects of culture.
- Compare and contrast features of other languages to English.
- Compare and contrast aspects of other cultures to the student's own culture.
- Practice different language learning strategies.

Tips for Parents

- Discuss with your child the value of exploring languages.
- Point out the use of other languages in everyday life such as in sports, the arts, and the media.
- Talk to your child about your family heritage and languages spoken by your ancestors.
- If you, or a family member, speak a language other than English, encourage your child to speak that language with you or them.

Questions to ask your child

- "What similarities did you learn today between the "target language" and English?"
- When watching a cultural program, viewing a cultural exhibit or visiting a cultural site, ask your child:
 - "What do you notice about the culture?"
 - "What do you notice about the language?"
 - "What things are the same as what we experience in our culture?"
 - "What things are different from what we experience in our culture?"

Resources

- Media: newspaper, magazines, television, online sites
- Community: museums, libraries, special events, ethnic organizations

On-line Resources

- www.quia.com [vocabulary and grammar practice]
- www.vebersetzung.at/twister/index.htm [tongue twisters]
- www.atlapedia.com [on-line encyclopedia/good maps]
- www.fodors.com/language [common phrases]
- erwin.sparcky.com/hangman.html [spelling practice]