

## THE BILINGUAL ADVANTAGE

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The amazing benefits of a dual language education speak for themselves, and the growing body of research on bilingualism confirms the lasting impact that these immersion programs will have for generations to come. Dual language programs prepare students for a successful intellectual, multicultural and global future.

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### **INCREASED ACADEMIC OUTCOMES**

*Dual language students outperform non-dual language students on standardized tests.*

Students who learn a second language in dual language settings achieve high performance levels on standardized tests. Language learners in one-way immersion settings, where 50% of the instruction was in the target language, scored significantly higher than language learners in mainstream English classes after only four years of bilingual schooling. In New York's two-way immersion programs, both English language learners and English dominant students outperformed their counterparts in mainstream settings.

### **REDUCED DROP OUT RATES**

*High school students in two-way immersion programs have lower drop out rates than their comparison peers in monolingual settings.*

Two-way students often engaged in activities that prepared them for college such as conversations about college entrance exams and attendance of college presentations.

### **BETTER COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING**

*Immersion students develop greater cognitive functioning and demonstrate increased attention control, better memory and superior problem-solving skills.*

Researchers have identified that bilingual students have greater metalinguistic awareness (awareness about a language as a system) and cognitive processing. Bilingual children also have the ability to attend to important information and set aside less important input.

### **NARROWS THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP**

*Dual language education can narrow the achievement gap between high-and low-performing populations.*

Both in primary and secondary settings, dual language models have proven that they can close the achievement gap between English language learners and native English speakers.

### **FASTER RATE OF LEARNING OF ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES**

*The experience of becoming bilingual itself makes learning a new language easier.*

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After learning a language, students can use the strategies they practiced with their second language to acquire a third or fourth language. They are in essence seasoned language learners. Furthermore, the study indicates that children who grow up with two languages end up being better language learners later on.

### **GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY AND WORK**

*Being bilingual at an early age can translate into many more opportunities to study and work abroad.*

Bilingual candidates are often given preference over monolingual students as they can adapt quickly to the linguistic demands of moving to another country.

International companies increasingly offer overseas positions to bilingual employees. Countries such as Canada have also eased immigration rules for bilingual and biliterate candidates.

### **MARKETABLE SKILLS FOR HIGHER SALARIES**

*In an increasingly global and competitive job market, being bilingual and biliterate is an advantage that not only gives access to prized positions, but is also rewarded with higher salaries.*

Companies who employ bilinguals can save on translation and interpretation services. Perhaps more importantly, they can count on bilingual speakers to possess a better understanding of cultural business practices. Someone who uses their bilingualism regularly in their job will almost always be paid more as a result of their language skills. While bilingualism may not result systematically in higher salaries, bilingual job seekers report access to a greater number of opportunities and stronger relationships with other speakers of the second language.

### **A POSITIVE SENSE OF SELF-IDENTITY**

*A dual language education preserves language learners' sense of pride in the language of their parents.*

Dual language programs allow language learners to retain an important link to their cultural and linguistic heritage. Thanks to dual language programs, students who are part of the cultural minority can maintain their unique cultural identities, as is the case for thousands of students in heritage language immersion programs in Louisiana and two-way immersion programs in New York.



## WHY FRENCH?

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Fluency in French opens many doors to students throughout their academic and professional careers. From the very foundation of the United States, France and the United States have shared strong ties. These historical bonds have proven robust over the years and continue to unite both countries in front of major global challenges. A testament to this close relation is the fact that 9 million Americans claim French ancestry and that French is currently spoken by 1.3 million people at home in the United States. French is also the second most commonly taught language in American schools after Spanish with over 1,2 million students.

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### THE LANGUAGE OF TRADING PARTNERS

As the fifth global economic power, France shares a close business partnership with the United States: 2,800 French companies in the U.S. earn a combined 1.7 billion U.S. dollars annually in varied sectors such as technology, medicine, banking, defense, publishing and tourism. Outside of the European Union, the United States is the top consumer of products from France and the second supplier of products to France (after China).

Neighboring Canada has 9.2 million Francophones, six million of whom live in Quebec. In fact, French-speaking Canada is the primary consumer of U.S. exports, far ahead of China. Through trade agreements such as NAFTA, more products are being marketed in Canada and companies need French-speaking employees who also have an understanding of cross-border cultural practices.

### THE LANGUAGE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

French is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and, alongside English, one of the two working languages of the U.N. in New York and Geneva. Students interested in a career in journalism, diplomacy and international relations will present a linguistic advantage by speaking French.

### THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD

From Paris to Montreal, from Port-au-Prince to Dakar, French is truly an international language in the 21st century. French is spoken in over 55 countries and on five continents by 220 million people around the world.

In addition to being spoken in France and Canada, French is one of the official languages of 32 nations. In Africa, French-speaking countries cover an area larger than the United States. For young Americans eager to contribute to the economic development of this continent or to support humanitarian efforts and work in NGOs, French will be a necessary tool in these rapidly changing nations whose demography is growing up very fast.

### INVESTMENT PARTNERS

French businesses have a notable presence in the United States, with over 3,600 affiliates and over 560,000 employees.

In return, the United States represents the top foreign investor in France, with a foreign direct investment stock of over 98 billion euros at the end of 2013. Over 2,700 American businesses operate in France and employ nearly 470,000 persons, making the United States the top foreign employer in France ahead of Germany.

### THE LANGUAGE OF THE ARTS

French is the language par excellence in fields such as the fine arts, culinary arts, enology, archaeology, museum studies, fashion and luxury goods. Students will need French to reach the highest ranks in those fields.