

Good evening Trustees,

I am writing in regards to the possible cancellation of the International Language Program. My son is currently in senior kindergarten and has been a part of the Portuguese language curriculum - for approximately two years and we are very pleased with the direction of the program. Here are some of the reasons we feel that the program is valuable and should continue in its current state:

- 1). Exposure to another language beyond English and French
- 2). Exposure to another culture that a child may not be familiar with
- 3). Reflects a global community
- 4). Having an additional language is a valuable life skill
- 5). Beginning the study of languages as early as possible is key to ensure lasting retention levels - as per proven research
- 6). Gateway to learning additional languages as many languages have common structure
- 7). It's fun
- 8). As children progress, it becomes more than merely language class - geography and culture is taught depending upon the particular language being instructed
- 9). This could also be a part of future professional development for a student once they reach adulthood - Ex. In my wife's organization, staff learned Portuguese as a new office in Brazil was opened with a relationship to investments and financial development within South America

My wife and I have been extremely impressed with the International Language Program and feel that our son, in only two years, has benefited greatly from the program and will continue to do so in the future.

Regards,

Nicholos Mellor