

PLS is committed to preparing and inspiring children for continued study, work and citizenship in our global community. To this end, we support, advocate and create opportunities for foreign language learning and cultural exposure for children in Piedmont schools.

Piedmont Language School's answers to your FAQs

LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

Is it important for my kids to learn a second language?

Learning a second language is becoming ever more essential for preparing students to achieve their potential as global citizens, linguistically and culturally. Furthermore, research shows that second language learning results in significant gains in cognitive flexibility, creativity, divergent and higher order thinking skills, and is correlated with higher test scores in other academic subjects.

When should my kids start learning a second language?

Foreign language learning comes easiest in a child's early years. Cognitive research shows that children between birth and ten years old learn languages most easily due to the elasticity of their brain. Further research shows that children who learn a language before the onset of adolescence are much more likely to have native-like pronunciation and intonation and greater confidence in speaking. Another reason for starting language learning early is simply that learning a second language can take a long time.

Where can I learn more about language learning?

A Piedmont Language School Resource List is available on our website, www.piedmontlanguageschool.com.

PLS LANGUAGE CLASSES

What language classes does PLS offer?

Since the early 1970s, PLS has taught foreign languages to Piedmont elementary school students.

In 2010-11, PLS transformed its K-6 **Spanish** program into a more rigorous daily immersion program, through a partnership with Viva el Español. We are proud to have seen immediate results and improved language skills amongst our students. The classes are offered before and after school at each of the Piedmont elementary schools.

PLS also has a successful five-level **Mandarin** program. Our foundation is traditional Mandarin, but we also introduce simplified Mandarin in our classes. The students and parents are happy with our new curriculum and increased focus on immersion. The program is after school twice a week at the Piedmont Community Church.

We continue to support community interest in French and Japanese, with a beginners **French** program and a **Japanese** elementary level cultural enrichment program.

Can my child start at any elementary grade-level?

Yes, PLS offers beginner Spanish and Mandarin classes for students in K through 5th Grade.

How can I register for PLS's language programs?

You can register for PLS classes online at our website, www.piedmontlanguageschool.com.

PLS'S PARTNERSHIP WITH PUSD

What kind of partnership does PLS have with the Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD)?

PUSD has been a valued partner of PLS for many years, particularly by allowing on-site Spanish classes at its elementary schools. In 2011-12, PLS and PUSD began partnering at a more strategic level, beginning in earnest with PLS's support of PUSD's World Language Curriculum Review. Our focus here has been to provide in-depth research and analysis on approaches to world language instruction. As the review progresses, we will help design a K-12 world language program that meets the needs of all of our children and continues to evolve with changing demand.

Does PLS fundraise? For what purpose?

Yes, PLS does fundraise! We are seeking community support to help us expand and improve opportunities for K-12 language learning in Piedmont, including supporting the school district as it continues to develop and deliver its vision for world languages.

CONTACT US

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