
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Airmen build foundation of Iraqi Air Force

To attend some advanced technical training, students must complete the school's English language training, which also satisfies the Iraqi Air Force's fourth core value, English language. The ELT at the Iraqi Air Force Training School is based on the Defense Language Institutes' program for teaching the English language. The program consists of 36 books and can take up to 12 months to complete. The school's commandant and Col. Nickell agree on the importance for all Iraqi airmen to learn English. "English is the international language for aviation," said Col. Nickell. "Mastering the English language is a key to the future success of Iraqi Air Force operations."

Young Elementary Joins International Program

A Louisville elementary school has become the first in Kentucky to receive a prestigious international designation. The achievement was celebrated Friday at Whitney Young Elementary. Students showed off their French language skills during a morning assembly at Young Elementary, which has been authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School by the IB organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

St. Paul schools hoping to tap into Chinese language boom with Mandarin immersion program

Buried in the fine print of St. Paul's newly published school application materials is a new kindergarten option likely to create some buzz among parents at Saturday's school-choice fair: Chinese immersion. Instruction in Chinese is growing faster than any other language in Minnesota and is on the rise nationally. And a popular charter school offering Chinese immersion — in which students receive instruction in all subjects in Chinese — recently left St. Paul for Minneapolis, creating an opportunity. Superintendent Valeria Silva has set a goal of adding about 5,000 kids to St. Paul schools in the next five years, and officials hope the new immersion program — which will also have a focus on science and math — will draw in families not currently enrolled in a St. Paul district school.

State must keep merit curriculum strong

The state must stand by its Michigan Merit Curriculum for high school diplomas, even as some worry that certain students may struggle in the face of higher expectations. Michigan can't continue to fall behind by not setting higher standards for its public schools. The merit curriculum is rigorous. Students earning a high school diploma this spring have been under its rules since 2006, including four years of math and English, three years of science, including biology and either physics or chemistry, and an online learning experience. A foreign language requirement is being phased in.

Language teachers reject jobs

Poor pay and a lack of regulation is ensuring the vast majority of people capable of teaching Chinese as a foreign language are not doing so. Delegates at a seminar held by the Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) recently heard that more than 40 percent of graduates nationwide who majored in teaching Chinese as a foreign language end up taking government jobs. Another 40 percent choose to start postgraduate studies. And most of the remaining students end up working, mainly as translators or in the banking and media sectors.

Learning languages makes us global citizens

"When we know many foreign languages we become citizens of the world; we become integrated and more involved in the affairs of the world," Lemieux said as he told the students about the importance of learning other languages. "The way we learn a new language potentially changes the way we think and the way we look at our lives," said Lemieux. In the process of studying another language one cannot help

but also learn something about the culture and traditions of the people who use that language, Lemieux stated, adding that it is an advantage when someone is exposed to those who speak a different language at an early age.

Kids Acquire Languages, They Don't Learn Better Than Adults

If a child were adopted by a Vietnamese family and I were also adopted by a Vietnamese family and the kid and I both lived with our respective Vietnamese families and attended primary school, in theory, the child would learn faster than me; in fact I could never match his accent. Because this is how we acquire language. The reality, however, is that as an adult, I will most likely not be adopted into a Vietnamese family. And in the [history of](#) the world, very few foreign children were ever adopted by and raised in a Vietnamese family. Barring this eventuality, the only way to learn the language is to study. In which case, adults learn faster.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Strategic Languages Find Home at NGCSU

It's no secret that North Georgia College & State University has been awarded federal grants totaling over \$2 million to build up its foreign language programs. These federal funds include a \$1.2 million federal contract for the university to establish a strategic languages training center on the Dahlonega campus. Items funded by the contract include instructional faculty and support staff, library resources, curriculum development to expand language offerings and study-abroad opportunities for cadets as part of their language programs.

MAVNI Soldiers look to join Special Operations Forces Elite

Please see page 16. "There is a lot of value added to having them [MAVNI] with the SF teams as we tap into other areas of the world," said a Special Forces captain. "When that Soldier can talk to guys in this community and tap into that resource, they're telling him what's important to prepare for. On the flip side, that Soldier is serving as a translator and an asset for the team while they conduct training exercises in African countries."

Primary school pupils 'benefiting from French and German lessons'

EVERY primary school in the county is now teaching its pupils a foreign language. In 2007 the Government decided that by this year every child aged seven and over would learn at least one modern foreign language. And schools in the county all now run language classes. Councillor for children's services with [Lincolnshire County Council](#), [Patricia Bradwell](#), said: "All our primary schools are making modern languages available and we are delighted that they have risen to the challenge to provide this important subject. "All the pupils learn French and German. We start them off in reception with very basic vocabulary that they learn through songs, like they do with English, really. By the time they get to year six they can have conversations and do more advanced grammar."

Lingual Solution Launched in Response to Increased Demand for Translation Services

An economic recovery is underway, and according to a recent article published in the Journal of Commerce [i], the strong growth of US Exports evidenced in 2010 is expected to continue through 2011. This news suggests manufacturing and services companies will continue seeking increased exposure in international markets as well as multicultural domestic markets. In order for businesses to effectively communicate with target audiences in a foreign language, translations must be both accurate and culturally sensitive. LingualSolution ([lingualsolution.com](#)), a recently-launched company based in Maryland, specializes in translation and interpreting services that help businesses overcome foreign language barriers.

Officials mark start of work on Utah cyber center

Officials are marking the start of construction on a \$1.2 billion National Security Agency cyber security center at a Utah National Guard camp near Salt Lake City. It's designed to help the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other agencies protect national security networks and identify cyber threats,

though the NSA has refused to disclose its full purpose or function. Many believe the center is meant for analysis of domestic and international telecommunications.

Flowery hosts dual immersion info night

Dual immersion at Flowery began in 1998 with 20 students and a \$1 million Title VII grant. In December 2004, the school board voted to make Flowery a "dual immersion school of choice." Then in 2006, Flowery was awarded a \$500,000 Foreign Language Assistance Program grant to support final expansion. Dual immersion extends through fifth grade at Flowery and grades sixth, seventh and eighth at Adele Harrison Middle School. Currently there are 426 dual immersion students in grades K-8, and the first dual immersion class ever is now in their senior year of high school.

SFL Staff Member Visits China

Candace Hackett Shively, Director of K-12 Initiatives at The Source for Learning, spent eleven days in early December visiting schools and universities in the People's Republic of China. She was part of a group of 35 leaders in the use of educational technology, all of whom were members of ISTE, the International Society for Technology in Education. Coordinated by the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program, the trip included visits to Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai. While in China, the delegation visited the Beijing International School—an independent, proprietary, coeducational English language K-12 day school that serves Beijing's expatriate community—and the School of Educational Technology at Beijing Normal University, an elite school similar to Columbia Teachers College in the U.S., that conducts research in instructional systems design and curriculum development. The group also visited Beijing's high school No. 3, a public school for grades 7-12.

Air Force officials approve changes to officer selection brief

In an effort to better highlight candidates who possess the skills necessary for officer promotion in today's expeditionary Air Force, senior Air Force officials approved changes to the officer selection brief. The modified officer selection brief will be used beginning with boards in June and include a more detailed professional military education section, the addition of a foreign language proficiency section and an acquisition qualifications section.

821st ETRS helps Iraqi airmen master core value

As you walk into the Iraqi Air Force Training School here you will notice the words integrity, military discipline, loyalty to the homeland and English language posted on the walls. These are the Iraqi Air Force core values. Airmen, civilians and contractors assigned to the 821st Expeditionary Training Squadron educate, train, advise and assist the faculty and students at the training school in an effort to build the foundation of a credible, self-sustaining Iraqi Air Force. "Mastering the English language is a key to the future success of Iraqi Air Force operations," said Lt. Col. Dawn A. Nickell, 821st ETRS commander.

A Tough Job Outlook

For those seeking jobs teaching English or foreign languages, the job market remains bleak -- but what passes for good news may be that the number of openings is flat this year, and isn't dropping further after dramatic declines in the previous two years. While these findings suggest that the number of openings in English is level compared to 2009-10, the total is 20.3 percent fewer than in 2008-9, and 39.8 percent fewer than in 2007-8. For foreign languages, this year's total, flat compared to 2009-10, is 16.9 percent fewer than the 2008-9 total and 39.3 percent fewer than the total the year before that.

Foreign Language Learning Opportunities for Middle and High School Students

Is your child interested in learning Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Spanish or Japanese? It will soon be time to register for classes for the 2011-12 school year. Parents and students are invited to a presentation and discussion on APS [Arlington Public Schools] world language options on Thu, Jan. 13 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Jefferson Middle School Library. Join World Language Advisory Committee chair Dr. Rick Jackson; senior language testing specialist at the Center for Applied Linguistics Meg Malone; FBI language testing specialist and former APS teacher Rachel Brooks; World Language Instruction supervisor Marleny Perdomo and World Language specialist Melissa West-Sen for an

informative discussion of the world language options available during the 2011-12 school year and about the practical benefits of learning a foreign language early.

Language is About Communication, and Learning One Should Be Too!

Foreign language education can be a useful and rewarding part of a balanced curriculum. Schools use different methods to teach students a foreign language. Foreign-language conversation requires a student to think on his feet. Fortunately, this is an ability all students already possess and certainly one that can be practiced and honed in the context of foreign language instruction. An emphasis on adaptive thinking in the instruction of the four language skills (writing, reading, speaking and listening) serves the true purpose of language—communication. Certain methods and principles are particularly effective in improving students' communication skills in a foreign language classroom. One strong example is relevance.

The Softer Side of War: Exploring the Influence of Culture on Military Doctrine

When U.S. forces invaded Iraq in 2003, the U.S. military was not particularly concerned about the impact of culture on its operations. U.S. leaders believed that the assault would play out as a high-tech conventional conflict and would be followed by a stabilization effort only slightly more difficult than the one U.S. troops had encountered in Kosovo a few years before. As the commander of the U.S. Army's First Brigade, First Armored Division, in Baghdad during the first crucial year after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, I quickly discovered not only that this assumption was incorrect but also that sectarian and ethnic identities, the role of tribes in Iraqi society, and the U.S. Army's own internal culture would weigh heavily on the course of the conflict, influence our approach to waging the war, and impact our interactions with our coalition allies.