
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 10 JUNE 2011

Virginia Public Schools Approve 13 Virtual Programs

*(NBC Washington)...*Sara Beladi

Virginia high school students who are looking to get a head start on, say, business law or a swoon-worthy foreign language now has the opportunity. Virginia education officials have approved 13 virtual-school programs that can provide online instruction to public school students, starting this September. The state [Department of Education](#) announced Monday that school divisions will be able to contract with the approved providers to expand course offerings through virtual-school programs, such as [Apex Learning](#), [BYU Independent Study](#) and [Chesterfield County Public Schools](#). Gov. Bob McDonnell advocated the expansion of virtual schools in his education agenda.

Azerbaijan's public servants lack national language skills, says commission

(Hurriyet Daily News)

Most of those seeking to become public servants in Azerbaijan have a poor knowledge of the Azerbaijani language, the country's Public Service Commission chairman said in an interview Thursday. Speaking to Trend News Agency, Bahram Khalilov said interviews with public servant candidates had left him dissatisfied with applicants' knowledge of the national language. "A civil servant must know the Azerbaijani language perfectly," he told Trend. "Taking into account that the paperwork in state bodies is in the Azerbaijani language, one of the important conditions is civil servants' knowledge of the Azerbaijani language."

US students to study Azerbaijani in Baku

(News.Az)

A group of 11 American scholars arrived in Baku on June 10 to study Azerbaijani under US Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship program. This year's Critical Language Scholars include beginner, intermediate, and advanced Azerbaijani-speakers. The program will be hosted by the Azerbaijan University of Languages and provides group-based intensive language instruction for a minimum of 20 hours per week and structured cultural enrichment experiences.

Ga Dangmes in Diaspora lament over dying Ga language

(GhanaWeb)

Dr. Dodoo noted that the Queen's language was the official language of the country and should be regarded as such, adding that 'if any language at all will be used for communication, it should be the language of the indigenes, and not any foreign language.' He appealed to the government, through the Ministry of Education, to ensure that the teaching of the Ga language in public and private schools is adhered to and respected, in line with the country's Constitution. Dwelling on the increase in the population of Accra, Dr. Dodoo said Ga youth graduates were at risk in acquisition of profitable jobs, as they have to compete with other students.

Presidio community remembers fallen comrades

*(Army.mil)...*Steven L. Shepard

Service members fire a salute during the Memorial Day ceremony here May 26. During the event, students, staff and guests of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center observed military personnel who have lost their lives and paid the ultimate sacrifice. A special tribute was given to Sgt. Andrew J. Creighton of Laurel, Del., who died July 4, 2010, while conducting operations in the Oruzgan Province of Afghanistan. Creighton was a graduate of the Korean Basic Course at DLIFLC and a veteran of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Civilian feds helping Afghan Defense

(FederalNewsRadio.com)

It isn't just troops on the ground in Afghanistan. Civilians who work for Defense are also there, working alongside their Afghan counterparts to build effective defense institutions. Defense.gov reports that 32 advisors are in Afghanistan with the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program. Twenty seven more are being trained. The goal is to have 100 senior defense advisors in Afghanistan.

Foreign language enrollment up, but still 'unsatisfactory'

(NYSSBA)...Paul Heiser

The number of American public K-12 students enrolled in foreign language courses increased by more than 3 percent from 2004-05 to 2007-08, yet only 18.5 percent of all students were enrolled in a foreign language class, according to the latest survey by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Reservists complete combat aviation advisor training

(Media Newswire)

Training with their active-duty counterparts, five 919th Special Operations Wing reservists completed the baseline certification course May 27 that will lead to their recognition as combat aviation advisors. The four phases of the CAA training begin with 12 weeks of introductory education and practical training culminating in the four-day exercise known as Raven Claw. This is followed by several months each of foreign language and flight training in various rotary or fixed-wing aircraft that are typical of partner nation air forces.

Whiz Kid: Groves Junior to Study Arabic in Jordan This Summer

(BirminghamPatch)...Laura Houser

This ambitious teen received a Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarship from the U.S. State Department for immersion training in languages not typically taught in high school. Blue will study Arabic in Amman, Jordan, before returning to Groves for her senior year as a forensic team co-captain. The elite scholarship lets 650 teens study one of seven languages "through formal and informal education and daily interaction with host country families and communities." Trip preparations include studying the Arabic alphabet, counting and basic phrases, Blume says.

The foreign language dilemma: Sí or oui?

(Washington Post)...Lurdes Abruscato

Our household is locked in battle over a seemingly mindless decision: Should our middle schooler take Spanish or French next year when the foreign-language program kicks in for his grade level? At first glance, it should be easy enough to decide – only two choices, really (actually three if you add “don't take a language” to the options), but not so fast, amigos.

Beijing commuters train brains in jams

(China Daily/Asia News Network)...Cao Yin

More Beijing commuters are spending time stuck in traffic jams to polish their language skills, with sales of smart phone applications seeing a sharp rise this year. "Dictionaries and language study programs, such as for English, French and Japanese, account for most of the mobile software downloaded by our users," said Zhang Keping at Shoujileiyuan, a website that sells apps for cell phones.

Amharic heritage language class to teach reading, writing, culture to Ethiopian high school students in Los Angeles

(Daily Bruin)...Stephen Stewart

Rahel Woldegaber understands how difficult it can be to teach children another language. Born and raised in Ethiopia, Woldegaber is a native speaker of Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia. After moving to Los Angeles several years ago, Woldegaber faces the challenge of raising her own children to

speak Amharic. Along with teaching her children Amharic, Woldegaber will also be leading a summer Amharic heritage class through the UCLA Center for World Languages.

DOD Civilians Assist Afghan Defense Agencies

(American Forces Press Service)...Cheryl Pellerin

Four elements of the advisor program make it unique in the Defense Department, Uribe said. One of these is training. A seven-week course includes five weeks in Washington for professional advisor training, cultural awareness, country familiarization, language instruction and senior-level consultations and briefings, and two weeks at Camp Atterbury in Indiana for an evaluated exercise.

Study Finds Sudden Insights Key to Learning Words

(Education Week)...Sarah D. Sparks

The [study's findings](#) suggest that children—and, in fact, all new language learners—can build up concrete vocabulary from interacting with a complex learning environment, not just repeated exposure to words in isolation. In a study published in the May issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University conducted a series of four experiments on how adults and preschool children learn the meaning of unfamiliar words. The researchers focused on so-called “seed words,” basic nouns that form the foundation for text comprehension.

Learning to Be French in Brooklyn

(The Wall Street Journal)...Kavita Mokha

French dual-language programs, which didn't exist in New York City public schools five years ago, are booming across the city, spurred by lobbying efforts from the French community. By September 2011, six elementary schools, one middle school and one charter school will have French programs. In Brooklyn, Public School 133 in Park Slope and P.S. 110 in Greenpoint are expected to unveil programs starting this fall.

DoDLive Bloggers Roundtable: AFPAK Hands

(DoD Live)

We have scheduled a DoDLive Bloggers Roundtable with Navy [Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Frey](#) and Air Force [1st Lt. Eve McCloud](#) for Wednesday, June 8, at 10 a.m. EDT. They will discuss the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program, which trains military and civilian personnel from all services, mostly mid-career officers, to serve as a core cadre to build trust between the U.S. military and local populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

5 Reasons to Love Dual Language Immersion Programs

(Take Part)...Melanie Smollin

Over the past 15 years, traditional bilingual education programs have fallen out of favor in the United States. [Criticized](#) for isolating English-language learners (ELLs) in remedial classrooms with watered down instruction, states like California, Arizona and Massachusetts scrapped bilingual programs in favor of English language immersion. But bilingual education is receiving a makeover. With a new name, fresh face and totally different attitude, increasing numbers of American families are embracing dual language immersion.

After 90 Years, a Dictionary of an Ancient World

(The New York Times)...John Noble Wilford

Ninety years in the making, the 21-volume dictionary of the language of ancient Mesopotamia and its Babylonian and Assyrian dialects, unspoken for 2,000 years but preserved on clay tablets and in stone inscriptions deciphered over the last two centuries, has finally been completed by scholars at the [University of Chicago](#).