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RUSSIAN CLASS BRIDGES LANGUAGE GAP

Gronsky, who was born in Ukraine and moved to San Francisco at age 7, hosts a basic Russian linguistics course twice a week at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan. The primary objective of the familiarization course is to provide service members with a foundation in conversational Russian and to ensure that military personnel deployed to the Transit Center can better communicate with their Kyrgyz Republic hosts. The captain, who deployed from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., serves here as the host nation liaison officer with the Transit Center's

Theater Security Cooperation division.

"Employing the language in daily interaction with local residents can act as a force multiplier," he said.

"Knowing a few words can be viewed as a sign of respect; many people here don't know Americans and will base their opinion on a first impression."

"Learning the language local people speak and understanding the culture establishes a connec-

tion and levels the playing field. Not expecting people to know English brings everyone together and puts people at ease," Gronsky said.

"Understanding that we are working together and cooperating with one another rather than holding the perception that Americans are here to supervise and critique only strengthens our partnership."



FEW OLYMPIANS LOST IN TRANSLATION

"Humans need to speak, to communicate — for business, to relax, for many, many, many things." "It's very important," said Ion Luchianov, a steeplechaser from Moldova, who speaks Russian, Romanian and English.

Such a worldly view is less likely to be found in Americans (or Britons, for that matter), who have a

well-earned reputation for cultural insensitivity — be it vacationers taking umbrage that Parisians rarely speak to them in English.

"It's the biggest sign of respect," said [Kobe Bryant](#), who spent six years of his childhood in Italy, where his father played basketball. "For me, it's to have an open-mindedness toward other cultures,

being able to learn their customs and way of life and be able to adjust my life according to theirs.

"We, as Americans, really don't compromise too much. We go into different countries and speak our language. It's easy for Americans. We want to take the easy way out."



DEMAND HIGH FOR DUAL IMMERSION PROGRAMS IN UTAH

It's only the second week of school, but first-graders at Foothills Elementary in Riverton can count to five in Chinese.

They can stand up and sit down when teacher Pei Chi Chang commands them in her native language. And when visitors peek into the classroom, students offer an enthusiastic "Ni hao!" instead of the English "Hello."

"As you can see, they can already follow simple orders like 'sit down for me, please,' " said Chang, who arrived in Utah two weeks ago from Taiwan to teach in one of the Jordan School District's 10 dual immersion language programs.

DLNSEO partners with the state of Utah through a Flagship K-12 model.

"To learn a language at an early age is always good, especially

when learning the pronunciation part. We know that China is a very powerful country and Chinese is a tool. I'm hopeful in the future the kids can use Chinese as a tool to get them anywhere."

Chang's beliefs are emblematic of a philosophy held by Utah parents, who are increasingly enrolling their children in dual immersion programs offered at 78 elementary schools statewide.



MULTI-LINGUAL CHILDREN EXPRESS THEIR EMOTIONS BETTER: STUDY

Switching from one language to another while in a conversation can help children express themselves better, a new study has found.

A study by the University of California and Morgan Kennedy of Bard College researchers has found how 'code-switching', or switching back and forth between different languages to discuss

and express emotions in a multilingual family might play an important role in children's emotional development.

Previous research from psychological science underscores the fact that language plays a key role in emotion because it allows the speakers to articulate, conceal, or discuss feelings better.

Shifting from one language to another may help children regulate their emotional response by using a less emotional. Non-native language as a way to decrease negative arousal, or to help model culture specific emotional regulation, it said.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LEON PANETTA SPEAKS AT THE ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

As a member of Congress, I was proud to represent this area [Monterey] and its many defense establishments—not only Fort Ord at the time, but today the naval Postgraduate School and the Presidio of Monterey, which is the home of the Defense Lan-

guage Institute, an important area of teaching languages to our troops. This is a mission that has become more and more important and will continue to grow in importance as we do a number of deployment assignments across the globe— you've

got to have the language capability.



WESTERN ARMY WELCOMES MARINE LIAISON

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force welcomes the first III Marine Expeditionary Force liaison officer at Camp Kegun July 31.

Capt Paul Bartok, the III MEF LNO to the JGSDF, believes the new position will positively impact the Corps' relationship with the JGSDF.

I think this opportunity is only going to strengthen the alliance between the U.S. and Japan," said Bartok. "Adding a personal touch to everything and having someone that speaks the language always puts a better face on the Marine Corps."

Bartok has been trained as a foreign area officer for Japan, received a

master's degree in national security studies, and has spent 2 1/2 years studying Japanese.



ABILITY TO SPEAK TWO LANGUAGES CAN MAKE A CHILD MORE CREATIVE

Children who are bilingual outperform those who only speak one language when it comes to problem-solving skills and creative thinking, according to new research.

It is believed that benefits are linked to the mental alertness needed to switch between languages, which

could feed into aptitudes and skills useful in other areas of thinking.

A study of primary school pupils who spoke English or Italian—half of whom also spoke Gaelic or Sardinian respectively—found that the bilingual children were significantly more successful in set

tasks.

Dr. Fraser Lauchlan, an honorary lecturer at Strathclyde's School of Psychological Sciences and Health, led the research, which was conducted with colleagues at the University of Cagliari in Sardinia, where he is a visiting professor.

As the world becomes increasingly connected, knowing how to speak two or more languages is a skill that's in growing demand.

10 MOST INNOVATIVE COLLEGES FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

As the world becomes increasingly connected, knowing how to speak two or more languages is a skill that's in growing demand. Whether you choose to major in a language, minor in one, or just take a load of language classes in college, there are some schools that

offer experiences that are unique, innovative, or just plain awesome for foreign language learners. While we couldn't highlight every great foreign language program out there, here are a few we think stand out from the crowd, offering students a chance to learn

rare languages, immerse themselves in a new culture and language, or even blend language learning with dormitory life .

DLNSEO partners with several of these institutions of higher education in improving their language programs.

