

International Interests

Language learners immerse themselves in new cultures

Snails: a tasty treat? An altar on Halloween? Some students are stepping out of their comfort zones in different World Languages classes. Not only is learning a second language beneficial for speaking skills but it also allows students to take a glance into other cultures.

Students in Spanish classes might have a small advantage over other language students. It may prove easier for them to pick up the language because many Spanish and English words are both based off of Latin words.

"You see Spanish everywhere, unlike other languages. It's almost like America's second language," informed Zach Bartels ('14).

World Languages teachers want to make their classes well-rounded by

incorporating the culture of their languages into the curriculum.

"We had snails and quiche one day; it was great to experience another kind of culture," described Adrienne Allen ('16).

Actually speaking the language becomes especially difficult, though, when the language does not have as many connections to English.

"German is probably the hardest just because there are no similar words to English, but in Spanish there

are a lot," Marquis Hendericks ('15) attested.

Whether taking a language class is used to say hello to someone, get a taste for culture or to fulfill requirements for college, learning a foreign language is a skill many will be grateful for. (S. Kersten)

**"We had snails and quiche one day; it was great to experience another kind of culture."
-Adrienne Allen ('16)**



Zach Bartels

Adrienne Allen

Marquis Hendericks

1). After building up the courage, Katie Wilt ('16) takes a bite out of a freshly prepared snail. French students ate escargot in the true French style. "The snails were very chewy," Witt remembered. (C. Hawkinson)



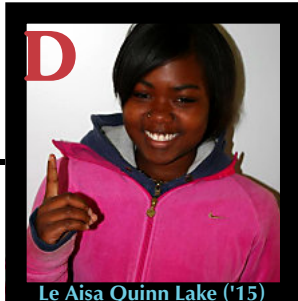
1.

2). Focusing on their work, Abby Luntz ('16) and Brady Cartee ('15) finish up their homework in Spanish IV. Cartee finds learning a new language difficult but rewarding. "Spanish is a good subject for me in high school that I learned so much about," Cartee affirmed. (C. Hawkinson)



2.

A Handy Dandy Way to Communicate



Le Aisa Quinn Lake ('15)



Becky Pendleton ('16)



John Milder ('15)



Josh Hoover ('14)



Meghan Pfannenstiel ('14)

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1). With toothpicks in hand, Rodneeka Jackson ('15) and Caulin Hurt ('15) are hesitant to eat snails. Students enrolled in language classes typically have the opportunity to eat food from the culture they are studying. "The snails weren't bad but they also weren't very good," Hurt recalled. (C. Hawkinson)

2). Featuring brightly colored skulls, Ms. Day's room is prepared for Dia de los Muertos. Her students learned about this celebration and decorated skulls, which are a common image around this holiday. "It's the day to celebrate the life of people in Mexico, but in America it's sad," Bridget Heidt ('16) explained, comparing Day of the Dead to the American Halloween. (N. Lane)

3). During a fiesta day, the AP Spanish class watches a Spanish soap opera called *La Laguna Negra*. The show featured the drama-filled lives of Spanish high schoolers. "It was the first and best fiesta this year!" Lexi Hamma ('14) attested. (D. Nauman)

4). In celebration of Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, Ms. Day had students create an altar. Day of the Dead is celebrated in many Spanish-speaking countries and is somewhat similar to Halloween. "They actually have a party for the dead, like dress up and have a parade. It's actually quite cool!" Gabrielle Peterson ('16) remarked. (N. Lane)

5.) Pouring hot chocolate, Hailey Smith ('15) and Brittany Dugan ('15) celebrate during a fiesta day. They watched Spanish television and brought treats to class. "We watched Spanish soap operas and ironically ate American food," Dugan disclosed. (D. Nauman)

6). During a speaking activity in German class, North student Alex Baker and Tyler Howell ('15) prepare for their conversation. Students are challenged to be able to read, write and speak in the language they study, along with learning the culture. (A. Raduechel.)

7). Concentrating on winning, Bailey Nelson ('16), Nick Morris ('15), Michael Rediger ('16) and Aaron Salas ('15) play a board game in Ms. Preciado's Spanish class. Salas thought that the class was not too difficult if he applied himself and completed his work. "Hard working beats talent when talent doesn't beat hard work," Salas observed. (A. Raduechel)

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