



FLES

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

We had the wonderful opportunity of asking former FLES students and their teachers how learning Spanish in elementary school has impacted them, and they had this to say:

How has learning Spanish in elementary school helped you?

“Taking Spanish made it easier to make a choice in high school which foreign language to take. It also helps with English grammar later on.”-10th grade, Upper St. Clair High School

“I learned basic vocabulary so that when I got to middle school we could start learning more difficult vocabulary and put sentences together.”-10th grade, Upper St. Clair High School

“It has helped me to perform well in the Spanish classes I am taking. I also feel that it will help me to interact better with others in a globalizing society.”-10th grade, Upper St. Clair High School

“I think it has helped me to broaden my horizons because without being exposed to a culture other than my own, I might not be as aware of my surroundings. Also, when I traveled to Mexico I was able to communicate with the people there.”-9th grade, Upper St. Clair High School

“It has allowed me to learn another language and allowed me to speak the fastest growing language in the world.”-9th grade, Upper St. Clair High School

How has teaching Spanish at the elementary level helped your students?

“My students come to my class with a wonderful vocabulary base and amazing accents! Also, their listening skills are outstanding.”-Denise Galloway, Boyce Middle School

“The students in my classes truly LOVE Spanish, their enthusiasm is contagious and their accents are incredible!”-Leslie Leeds, Upper St. Clair High School

“In speaking with many people who move into the township, I have learned that our elementary Spanish program is one reason that they chose our school district over Peters Township, Bethel Park, etc. We are a model for many school districts, as I know that they are considering starting an elementary program.

The benefits of the elementary program are very obvious in my classroom. The students already are familiar with many of the basic vocabulary words and expressions. This enables me to expand the vocabulary and teach them to use this vocabulary in sentences and in conversation. They come into my class at a novice proficiency level, which enables me to take them even higher level of proficiency. Their accents are already formed, and they don't have inhibitions about trying to sound like a native speaker.”

-Connie Montgomery, Fort Couch Middle School