

Dear Parents:

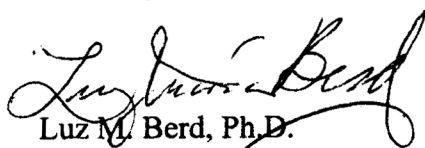
I am addressing you as a Spanish professor, native speaker of Spanish, and a mother. Based on my own experience, I believe that it is crucial to know more than one language in these very difficult times of unemployment and globalization. Personally, thanks to the fact that I already knew Spanish and I was studying English, I was the recipient of a scholarship to study at the University of Michigan. That is where my French studies began. Later on, I become a Spanish teacher and continued studying French. When I became trilingual I was able to obtain the position of Head of the Import and Export Department of the World Trade Center of Chicago which dealt with trade involving Illinois, Mexico, and Canada. Consequently, I ask you to advise your children to study French. By becoming trilingual, they will be able to compete and excel in the world of employment in whatever career they select.

I am including some reasons to study French so you can explain to your children some of the many advantages of learning this language:

1. Since Spanish and French have the same Latin roots they are very similar languages. Therefore, it is easy for anyone who knows Spanish to learn French.
2. If your children study French for a minimum of three years, they increase their chances of being accepted at the college of their choice.
3. If your children know French, they will be able to communicate with two hundred million French-speaking people who live all over the world.
4. If your children are trilingual because they know how to speak and write English, Spanish and French, they will have more advantages to obtain employment over those candidates who speak only one or two languages.

Based on all that I have mentioned above, I ask you to advise your children to register in one of the French classes. In today's challenging economic environment, knowing three languages will help them to be successful in life.

Sincerely,

  
Luz M. Berd, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita