## WHITES HILL STATE COLLEGE The Benefits of a French Bilingual Program

Bilingual education is the process of teaching students using two languages. The essence of bilingual education is not simply the process of learning and studying two languages as subjects; it is the incorporation of the second language, in this case French into the actual teaching process.

The benefits of bilingual education have been widely researched and have proven to be long-lasting.
Some of these benefits include;

## 1. Enhanced Cognitive Skills \& Neuroplasticity

Research indicates learning a second language is one of the most effective ways of boosting brain capacity and leads to a wide range of cognitive benefits including creative thinking, problem solving and analysing information.

Bilinguals are also consistently better able to deal with distractions. They have enhanced attentional control abilities and are better able to concentrate.

## 2. Academic Excellence

Research at Cambridge University shows that bilinguals successfully transfer these enhanced cognitive skills into greater academic achievements than their monolingual peers, especially in maths, reading, and vocabulary.

## 3. Global Connections and Perspectives

Being able to speak proficiently in two or more languages has always been hugely beneficial across different professions. The ability to adapt to and absorb different cultures is in itself a precious commodity to companies operating across multiple countries. French is 5 th most spoken language in the world, and is widespread across the globe.

## 4. Cultural Benefits

The exposure to two languages assists students in developing an appreciation for differences in cultures. Not only can bilinguals successfully interact with a wider variety of people, but they are more open-minded towards and appreciative of other cultures.

For those families with a French background, learning the language leads to preservation of culture and the ability to converse with extended family members who may not speak English.

## 5. It's Fun and Entertaining

It is fun learning multiple languages at the same time. Students get engaged in different cultures and customs. The ability to speak multiple languages allows us to communicate with many people and make friends.

It also allows students to get involved in cultural events and other entertaining programs that can expand their global perspective. Students in bilingual education classes develop a closer connection to each other and learn to break down barriers. Bilingual education is global engagement.

Please click on the links below for more information regarding the benefits of being Bilingual.

- 10 Benefits of Bilingual Education - Honest Pros and Cons
- The Bilingual Advantage - 6 tips for monolingual parents who want to raise their child bilingually
- Bilingual Education: Cognitive benefits and policy into practice, Cambridge Assessment
- The Benefits of Bilingual Education in Australian Schools, Monash University

