



CeLTA Language School (CLS) Year-round programs



Audience

The CeLTA Language School serves language learners ages 3-18 as well as adults and pre- and in-service language teachers throughout Michigan. Most participants are from the Greater Lansing area. We also collaborate with elementary and middle schools in East Lansing, Holt, Lansing, and Okemos. In 2018, over 800 children and their families participated in our programs and more than 180 MSU students were involved in service-learning as part of our language offerings.

Funding

CLS is self-sustaining through participant fees. All programs offered at area schools charge a nominal fee to offset travel. Long-term on-campus programs are fee based to offset instructional costs and materials. The College of Arts and Letters and the Center for Language Teaching Advancement support programming by donating facilities, supplies, and volunteers in kind. Scholarships are available for all programs.

Objectives

The CLS mission is to raise global citizens who are competitive on the job market through demonstrated world language proficiency and with an appreciation for diversity and different cultures.

Our goals are to:

- Create awareness among schools and parents about the importance of early language acquisition and appreciation of other cultures;
- Introduce children to language learning and encourage at least minimal language proficiency;
- Promote cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity;
- Offer alternative learning and teaching opportunities;
- Provide a training venue for pre- and in-service teachers and those who seek practical applications for their futures in foreign language teaching; and
- Offer alternative ways to use language for community volunteers.

Description

CLS provides community-based preK-12 language and culture programs and also offers service-learning opportunities for upper high school and undergraduate students. Learning opportunities include:

- Enrichment programs at area elementary schools;
- Culture events on and off campus;
- Weekly academic classes for preschoolers, elementary, middle, and high school students on campus;
- Weekly language and culture classes for adults; and
- Language summer camps on campus.

In 2018, the following languages were offered: Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish, Vietnamese, Urdu, Uzbek and Yoruba. More languages will be added in the future.

Outcomes

Students, their parents, teachers, and volunteers are surveyed at the end of each program.

- 99% of summer camp participants agreed that learning about cultures and languages on MSU's campus made them want to study at MSU in the future.
- 97% of parents agreed that CLS provided a positive language/culture learning experience for their children.
- 100% of volunteers agreed that they gained important hands-on practice with the target language outside of their regular MSU classes.
- 98% of pre- and in-service teachers agreed that the skill sets acquired in CLS workshops will transfer to future employment opportunities.

Various MSU volunteers and Teacher Education candidates passed language proficiency exams after participating in our programs.

Additional Significant Information

CLS received a Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award through MSU's Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. We were also featured in the 2010 President's Report. Our programs have been featured in the *Lansing State Journal* and *State News*. Scholarly articles have appeared in the *ETAS Journal*, *Frühes Deutsch* (Early German), and *Learning Languages*, book chapters have appeared in the *Central States Report*, *Civic Engagement in the Languages*, and in *The Language Center Handbook*.

Contact Information

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