G E R M A N ?

Y E S !









Reasons, why German is the right subject to study in School, at R E N A I S S A N C E HIGH SCHOOL

Information compiled by Dr. Mark Ferguson

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

According to the **2012-13 Detroit Public Schools Academic Plan** of Jan. 2012

**Academic Plan:**  among *Core Strategies*: Provide a high-quality, well-rounded educational experience to all students that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging (Academic Plan Presentation, slide 5)

► *the study of German is rigorous and extremely relevant to Michigan students*

**Academic Plan:**  College readiness – [to increase] the number of graduates who meet or exceed ACT College readiness criteria (Executive Summary, p2)

► *the study of German increases SAT and ACT scores*

**Academic Plan:**  curriculum pathways that consider the needs and interests of the students to prepare them for higher education opportunities or the 21st century world of work. (Executive Summary, p5)

► *there are 21st century jobs and careers in MI for DPS graduates who study German*

**Academic Plan:**  We believe that education should provide students with a deep understanding of the world around them as students move from class to class and progress to the next grade

•Students are taught how what they learn in one class relates to another or its application in the world outside of school

•Our goal is to provide a quality education that seeks to prepare all graduates to be career and college ready and prepared to compete as world citizens in a diverse global marketplace (society) (Academic Plan Presentation, slide 11)

► *the study of German prepares DPS students as world citizens who have the skills to compete successfully in the global marketplace*

**Academic Plan:**  Expansion of the International Baccalaureate Programin an effort to provide a more inclusive education that promotes the study of other countries and languages (Academic Plan Presentation, slide 20)

► *promoting the study of German language and German culture is essential if DPS students wish to be included in jobs opportunities in Michigan today and in the future*

**2012-13 DPS Academic Plan, Executive Summary**

http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/FINALAcademicPlanExecutive-Summary\_2012.pdf

**2012-13 DPS Academic Plan, Presentation**

http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/FINAL-ACADEMIC-PLAN-Presentation.pdf

►How will learning German help DPS Students get into College?

A study by Thomas Cooper and Associates indicates that students who studied a second language scored higher on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams than students who did not. Moreover, students of German scored higher on the SAT than students of other languages.

How will learning German help DPS Students succeed College?

Many academic programs require or recommend the study of German language: anatomy, art, history, biochemistry, biology, biomedical physics, botany, chemistry, design, engineering, film studies, genetics, linguistics, logic and methodology of science, molecular biology, music, philosophy, physical science, physics, physiology, religious studies, zoology.

40% of scientists in the US recommend the study of the German language. German is the second most language used in scholarly publications worldwide.

A report entitled *Are They Really Ready to Work? Employers’ Perspectives on the Basic Knowledge and Applied Skills of New Entrants to the 21st Century Workforce* underscores the need for college graduates with global competency skills. Based on a survey of 431 human resource professionals, knowledge of foreign languages, cultures and global markets are cited as becoming increasingly important for college graduates entering the U.S. workforce. Survey participants cited foreign languages as increasing in importance over the course of the next five years – more than any other basic knowledge area or skill.

►How will learning German help DPS Students get Scholarships?

2000+ scholarships and grants are awarded annually to US students of German by the Goethe Institute and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Wayne State University distributes $20,000 annually for German majors and minors. Wayne State's Junior Year in Munich program distributes an additional $50,000 in scholarship awards annually that make study abroad possible for students in financial need.

As just one example, take Janai Gilmore: She graduated from Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School. Earned a B.A. in German and B.A. in Public Affairs with a concentration in Urban Policy and Management from Wayne State; M.A. in Public Administration from Wayne State. As an undergraduate, awarded a prestigious and lucrative scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service to study in Germany with WSU's Junior Year in Munich program during her junior year. While in Germany, she had an internship in the Office of the Mayor in the City of Essen, and completed a research project on "Structural Transformation in the Industrial *Ruhrgebiet* (Ruhr Region)." During her senior year, she was selected to be a German Academic Exchange Service Ambassador. As a graduate student, awarded a second German Academic Exchange Service scholarship for graduate study in Germany. Today she works for a non-profit in Detroit.

►Why should Michigan Students learn about the Language and Culture of other Countries?

The health of Michigan's economy is linked to foreign trade, which means that the availability of employment in Michigan is linked to foreign trade. Chances are great that graduates of DPS may someday work for a foreign-owned company in Michigan.

• 27% of all manufacturing workers in Michigan depend on exports for their jobs.

• 865,000 Michigan workers in import-related service industries (e.g. finance, insurance, marketing and legal services), depend on foreign trade for their jobs.

• Jobs in exporting plants pay up to 18% more than similar jobs in nonexporting plants.

• U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies pay an average compensation of $68,317 per

year, which is 32 % higher than U.S. companies.

• The Wall Street Journal (6/14/2012) reported that companies and state governments in the U.S. are increasingly turning to German companies for help in training skilled factory workers.

►Isn't exporting just for Big Businesses like the Automotive Companies?

Not at all.

11,210 companies exported from Michigan locations in 2009. Of those, 91% were small and medium-sized businesses.

Half of the US economic growth since the 2009 recession has come from exporting American goods and services abroad.

►What about German Companies in Michigan? Where do they fit in?

Michigan is home to 350 German-owned companies (not to mention the 260 companies with less than 50% German ownership).

• 78,000 Michigan workers are employed by German companies.

• 60% of people working for foreign companies in Michigan work for German companies.

• German companies employ more people in Michigan than companies from any other country.

• Michigan has more people working for German-owned companies than any other U.S. state.

►Are there any Michigan Companies in Germany?

More than 75 Michigan-based companies have operations in Germany.

How do German companies in Michigan compare to other Foreign-Owned Companies?

German Japanese Chinese

No. of Companies 350 480 50

No. of Employees 78,000 33,190 3,000+

►But isn't English the Language of Business?

Although many CEOs of major global companies may speak English, when it comes to actually implementing their ideas and projects on the ground floor, German is the language of business.

Are we competitive? Who else is learning German?

German is the most widely spoken language in Europe. Germany is the strongest economy in the European Union, and Germany is the United States' largest European trading partner.

Within Europe after English, the second most widely taught foreign language is German

Within Japan after English, the second most widely taught foreign language is German

►Do Michigan Companies really need workers who can speak German?

In order for Michigan businesses to be successful at exporting their products overseas, or work successfully with their global partners, they need employees who . . .

• can speak German

• know about German history and culture

• have first-hand experience of living in Germany

• understand German business and consumer practices.

In a 1994 survey conducted by German-American Chambers of Commerce, 65% of all respondents stated they were looking specifically for German/English bilingual skills.

►How many Jobs in Michigan are available right now that require German Language Skills?

**Language Required** (Sept 5, 2012)

**Indeed.com** German Japanese Chinese

**174 183 94**

**careerjet.com** German Japanese Chinese

**160 158 64**

German language skills are listed as either required or listed as a plus. In addition, not only are language skills required, but often knowledge of "German business and engineering culture."

►Is there a Place for Diversity within these Opportunities?

Contrary to the tourist stereotype of Germany as a land of blond hair and blue-eyed beer drinkers at Oktoberfest, Germany today is a multicultural society, with a significant population of Afro-Germans or Black Africans (more than 800,000), Turkish-Germans (more than 4 million), Asians (1.6 million) and others, for example from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The old post-war and Cold War generation of leaders in both the US and Germany has passed on. If diversity within the next generation of leaders in government and business on both sides of the Atlantic is not reflected in a new transatlantic partnership for the 21st century, they will be left out of its promises and potential.

►What does the Future look like for Students of German?

For better or for worse, globalism and the global economy are here to stay.

DPS graduates who study German at Wayne State have incredible job and career opportunities – especially if they combine German with business. Not only can they spend a year in Munich (made possible through generous scholarship support), but while they are in Germany, they may also have an internship in a wide range of fields. Every WSU student of German who has taken this path has landed a job after graduate from college.

Currently there is high demand for college graduates who speak German, particularly in the fields of finance, engineering, global human resource management, and global supply chain management (logistics and planning). In fact, the demand is greater than our ability to meet it. In short, we need more students of German to fill the jobs available.

Take Detroit Diesel (a Daimler company) as an example. They have hired many Wayne State German Majors in the past, and now wish to take on as many as 14 new interns a year. Many of these internship positions in the past have turned into full-time employment; some former students have advanced quickly and even have been relocated to Germany. These are excellent opportunities, but only available to students who speak German.