



“We must be resolute in designing a comprehensive approach to foreign language acquisition that will prepare the next generation of Americans for success in a highly competitive, tightly interconnected world.”

-- Glenn Alschuler & David Skorton, Cornell University, Forbes 8/12

2014 - 2015

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OUR *mission*

The German Immersion Foundation supports the Milwaukee German Immersion School (MGIS) and the Milwaukee School of Languages (MSL) by providing the additional resources to fully fund programs needed to prepare children to become leaders of tomorrow and succeed in the competitive global marketplace.

The Story

The parents saw the writing on the wall. After several consecutive years of budget cuts for their childrens' school, they decided to take action. A handful of committed parents joined together in 2001 to form the German Immersion Foundation (GIF), a 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable entity to support two Milwaukee educational treasures - MGIS and MSL. Annual test scores at these two schools rival those of students from the top performing school districts and private schools throughout Wisconsin. The Foundation's mission is to raise funds to help ensure the high quality education these two institutions provide Milwaukee Public School students.

Although the Foundation funds cannot be used to directly support school operations and positions, GIF has been instrumental in funding crucial initiatives and programs that assist the schools in providing an excellent educational environment. This support provides critical professional development for teachers, much needed classroom equipment, and intern programs that bring native German-speaking college students to the classrooms as aides.

These initiatives enable the schools to focus their budgets on employing high-caliber staff dedicated to maintaining their award-winning level of education. The Foundation is led by a volunteer Board composed of parents of current and former students, staff members from both schools, and committed community partners, all of whom contribute financially to the GIF.

The Full Immersion Concept

Total language immersion is an approach to instruction in which the usual curricular activities are conducted in a foreign language. Students acquire the necessary language skills to understand and communicate about the subject matter set out in the schools' programs of instruction. They follow the same curricula, and in some instances, use the same materials (translated into German) as those used in the non-foreign language immersion schools of their district. In other words, German is both the subject of instruction and the medium through which a majority of the schools' academic content is taught.

At MGIS, students receive reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science instruction in German from the first day of kindergarten through the fifth grade. In second grade, students are introduced to 30 minutes per day of English reading instruction. The amount of English is increased to approximately one and one-half hours per day at the fourth and fifth grade levels. By the time they complete elementary school, they have received 5,200 hours of instruction in German and are fully bilingual in reading, writing, and speaking. By the time they finish high school at MSL, students are eligible for up to 16 college credits in German language.

As one of only a few foundations in America established to support a public school, the German Immersion Foundation strives to maintain the high quality of education received at MGIS and MSL so that:

- Graduates of the immersion program earn the Deutsches Sprachdiplom, the German Language Diploma, and fulfill the language requirement for acceptance to universities in Germany.
- Teachers and administrators are asked for input to develop blueprints for similar programs in other metro areas.
- The Foundation becomes a model of support and partnership for quality education in the United States.

MGIS

- 2013 American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Woodruff Award for Exemplary Elementary Foreign Language Program.
- 2013 Donna Clementi Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in World Language Programs (WI State award).
- Only MPS school recognized as a 2013 WI Department of Public Instruction High Progress School.
- 93% of 4th grade students are proficient or advanced in English reading. This is especially notable since students do not begin reading in English at school until 2nd grade.
- Recognized as a Deutsche Partnerschule by the German government.
- Students completing the MGIS program have a 100% high school graduation rate compared to 62% average for Milwaukee Public Schools.

MSL

- Recognized as German PASCH Partner School by the German government.
- Received a 2010 silver medal as one of the best high schools in America by U.S. News and World Report.
- Rated in the top 1,000 public high schools in the United States by Newsweek.
- Designated Wisconsin Promise School of Recognition in both 2009 and 2010.
- Recognized as 2009 Global Classroom Award winner by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET).

Since its inception the Foundation has provided:

- \$134,600 for the Amity Internship program.
- \$54,600 for gym and music specialists at MGIS.
- \$48,600 in grants for new technologies in MGIS and MSL.
- \$46,700 in grants for professional development.
- \$37,300 in grants for curriculum development at MGIS and MSL.
- \$9,500 in college scholarships.

- Continued work on a branding plan to position both schools as high-quality K-12 German education programs.
- Build relationships with businesses that can offer opportunities to MSL graduates.
- Secure one or more major gifts of \$25,000 each.
- Secure one major sponsor for the 2015 silent auction.
- Increase the silent auction attendance by 10% over the prior year.
- Increase general donations to meet or exceed funds generated by the silent auction.
- Solicit total grants of at least \$20,000 dollars for the 2014-15 school year.
- Raise awareness of the Carl and Pat Mueller Scholarship, and increase applicants by 20% for the 2014-15 school year.

- Attend or sponsor our annual silent auction fundraiser.
- Attend or sponsor our "Celebrate Success" corporate event.
- Encourage your business to consider internship opportunities for MSL graduates.
- Make a donation to buy ELMO document camera for \$1,500.
- Sponsor an Amity intern for \$4,500 or be a host family.
- Help a teacher defray the cost of professional development up to \$750. Many of these opportunities take place in Germany.
- Serve as a board or committee member for the Foundation. Visit our website for more details.
- Share why you support MGIS and MSL with friends and family.
- Visit the schools to witness the unique immersion approach to education and its proven results.