



Ten Ways to Make your School Language- and Culture-Friendly

1. **Greetings:** Have a school campaign to learn and use greetings in all languages represented in the school.
2. **Maps:** Have a world map on a prominent wall, with markers on all countries represented among the students and staff.
3. **Books:** Stock books in the library in all the languages spoken by students in the school; if possible, acquire or have students create bilingual books.
4. **Daily communication:** Encourage the use of languages other than English, both socially and academically. Foster the understanding that all languages can be used for social and academic purposes.
5. **Word Walls:** When new words are put on walls, encourage speakers of other languages to put the translations in their languages alongside the English words.
6. **Bulletin Boards:** Use bulletin board space to reflect different languages and cultures. For example, a bulletin board celebrating Mother's Day could include photos of mothers in various parts of the world, and the word "Mother" in many languages.
7. **Other languages in class:** Expose students to other languages in class. For example, a discussion on water shortages could include a film made in another country about water. It could be in another language, with English subtitles.
8. **Projects or reports:** Encourage the perspectives of other languages and cultures in projects. For example, if students are investigating communication through technology, encourage contact with individuals in other countries in gathering data.
9. **Pair and Group work:** Group students who speak the same language together, and encourage them to do their academic group discussions in the language of their choosing.
10. **Cultivate student leadership:** Consider forming student leadership groups in charge of creating ways to make a more language and culture friendly campus. Enlist foreign language clubs and other students who may be interested in international sports or music. Help students to make connections between their interests and those from other cultures present in the school, so that linguistic and cultural diversity is valued.