Communities – That “hard-to-reach” standard

We all know the 5 C’s that help us remember our standards: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. We’ve just spent the last 6 editions of the Teachers’ Toolbox walking through the Modes of Communication. Now, we are jumping ahead to the last “C” – Community!

How do I implement this standard? There are NO speakers of my language in the local area!! Let’s start with the official description!

“Communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.” This standard is quite broad and allows you to incorporate self-reflection, goal-setting and more into helping students consider how they will use their language in the world both now and in the future. This standard is also asking that students use their language outside of the classroom. Have you considered a sister school/classroom to connect your students? Do you have a local fair, festival or other community event for your students to share their language with your local community? Have you considered having your students attend local or even virtual events that promote language use? There are contests for virtually all of the languages offered in Indiana to promote this standard!!

School & Global Communities Examples

Novice Level Examples – Students create and perform for school or community; Students study professions that require language proficiency; Students communicate with speakers of other languages in person or via email, video chats, social media or video exchanges.

Intermediate Level Examples – Students discuss current events with peers; Students share information learned about a cultural event acquired by a native speaker; Students practice language together with English Learners.

Advanced Level Examples - Students assist their local community by translating and/or interpreting; Students write stories to present to others; Students participate in career exploration which requires language proficiency.

Lifelong Learning Examples

Novice Level Examples – Play sports or games from the target culture; Plan real or imaginary travel to the target culture; Listen to music or sing songs from the target culture; Interpret authentic materials for personal enjoyment or fulfillment.

Intermediate Level Examples - Attend cultural events in the target culture, Read blogs or websites from the target culture; Play musical instruments from the target culture.

Advanced Level Examples – Create interpersonal relationships with individuals from the target culture; Use social media to scope out and attend culturally-authentic establishments; Students seek out opportunities to engage with target culture.

In the News...
The American Academy of Arts & Sciences just released their report entitled “America’s Languages”. Find and read it here!

Don’t forget to connect with us at www.learningconnection.doe.in.gov for IDOE’s World Language & Cultures Community

Save the date...
IFLTA Conference
Sheraton at Keystone
Nov. 2-4, 2017
www.iflta.org

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