



Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 32

MAY 13, 2016

Spring Happenings

- **May 9-13 High School Testing Window**
- **May 17 Election Day No School**
- **May 20 ECHS Graduation**
- **May 21 WCHS Graduation**
- **May 23 Last Day of School**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[EPals.com](#)

[Exploraciones](#)

[Saludos](#)

[World Savvy Toolkit](#)

[Global Campaign for Education](#)



Teaching World Language

The following is an excerpt from KDE's publication, "Why Language Learning is Important."

It is vitally important for all Kentucky students to be prepared to engage with the world.

In the words of Anthony Jackson of the Asia Society: *In matters of national security, environmental sustainability, and economic development, what we do as a nation and in our everyday lives is inextricably intertwined with what governments, businesses, and individuals do beyond our borders.*

Twenty-first century lives are not lived in isolation. We go to school with, work with and live in neighborhoods with people from other cultures who speak other languages. Our state's economy depends strongly on the international trade of small and large Kentucky businesses. For-

eign companies invest billions of dollars in the Commonwealth and provide us thousands of jobs. We engage in citizen diplomacy and military actions with hundreds of countries both at home and across the globe.

For nearly everyone in today's world, English is an absolute, but in America, English alone is not enough. Our country's geographic isolation and the global importance of English have contributed to our false sense of security in regard to our need for world language competence. To compete academically, economically and politically, and function successfully in a global society, American students need to be globally competent—and that means being able to communicate and interact effectively in at least one other language and culture.

Today, in 20 out of 25 industrialized countries, students start their formal world language learning in grades K-5. Twenty-one countries in the European Union require nine years of lan-

guage study. International business leaders are warning us that American graduates competing for the same jobs as their peers from other countries, may be technically competent but are increasingly culturally deprived and linguistically illiterate compared with graduates from other countries.

As educators, Kentucky has asked us to take on another great, but important, challenge: Continue to prepare our students to shine brightly on the world stage by equipping them with a foreign language and increasing their global competence. Starting in 2016-17, let's accept the challenge and do all we can to help our children achieve the goals set before us.

