

A word cloud featuring the phrase "Thank You" in numerous languages. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping manner. The most prominent words are "thank you" in green, "merci" in red, "dank je" in orange, "arigatō" in blue, "gracias" in green, "teşekkür ederim" in orange, "dank je" in orange, "arigatō" in blue, "gracias" in green, "teşekkür ederim" in orange, "dank je" in orange, "arigatō" in blue, "gracias" in green, "teşekkür ederim" in orange.



Throughout the world there are over 7,000 different languages that are spoken with more languages emerging every day. In the United States there are 347 languages that are spoken with English being the primary language.

A word cloud of various languages including Arabic, French, Polish, Turkish, Mandarin, Spanish, Croatian, Swedish, Indonesian, German, Japanese, Norwegian, Serbian, English, Portuguese, Russian, Dutch, Italian, and Greek. The words are in different colors and orientations, arranged in a roughly rectangular shape.

Most of the 7,000 plus languages were developed within tribes of people that were specific to an area or group. When someone came along that did not speak the language it showed that the individual did not belong in that area.

Why is it important to learn other languages? It can be beneficial to learn words or phrases of other languages because it allows us to communicate and form relationships with others.

## October Observations

- For questions or more information please contact:

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PARENT CORNER

WHAT IS MY SCHOOL DOING

PARENT CORNER

THE PARENT CORNER IS OPTIONAL READING FOR PARENTS THAT ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OR IDEAS AT HOME. MONONGALIA COUNTY SCHOOLS IN ONLY PROVIDING OPTIONAL RESOURCES AND RESPECTS EVERYONE’S DIFFERENCES.

Learning a second language has many benefits to it.

- Career options can improve
- I can expand one’s knowledge about other cultures
- It helps boost creativity
- Helps connect with other people.

Even learning certain words or phrases can have benefits to it. All students in K-12 have an opportunity to learn a different language.

How you can help at home

**Help your child make time to practice-** Your child is already participating in some type of foreign language at school. Find time to talk about or practice what they learned.

This does not need to be every day, but try finding time during dinner or before bed. If you know your child is learning about different foods, then try to incorporate that into the dinner conversation.

**Have your child teach you to say something-** Give your child an opportunity to teach you will help them and make it fun for them.

Taking an interest in what they are learning and giving them the opportunity to show you will help them stay interested and engaged in learning a new language.

**Find events related to the language-** See what is going on in the community that celebrates the language they are learning. Providing more exposure and opportunities to learn will help with their interest in the language.

**Ask the teacher for resources-** Ask the language teacher at school if they could send home additional resources to practice at home or if they have any recommendations.

**Provide videos, movies and books in the language-** Again, exposing your child and giving them more opportunities to learn another language will help them. Just make sure they are geared toward children and not adults.

Learning Sign Language

Sign language has a lot of benefits to it. You always hear about the benefits that sign language has for babies and toddlers, but the benefits are there for older kids too.

**Improves Spelling-** Research shows that learning the basic sign language skills of the alphabet can help improve spelling in young kids. It helps give them another way of remembering to spell words.

**Improve classroom behaviors-** Teachers that have incorporated sign language into their classroom are finding it useful with better classroom management. Kids can sign that they need something (toilet, drink, pencil). It helps cut down on classroom interruptions.

**Improves small motor skills-** Because of the dexterity it requires. Sign language helps improve small motor skills.

**Build a better vocabulary-** nonverbal communication is a big part of our communication. Sign language helps reinforce vocabulary and meaning of words. When words can be both seen and heard it leaves a stronger impression on you.

There are benefits to starting your child learning early, but no matter the age sign language can have a lot of benefit. Basic knowledge of sign language is beneficial in jobs such as firefighters, police officers, or other civil servant jobs.

Preview to next Month

November is “Kindness to all cultures”

This month will focus on treating others with kindness. We may all have our differences, but it is important to treat everyone with kindness regardless of those differences.

November  
Observations

- National Native American Heritage Month
- World Kindness Week- Week of November 13<sup>th</sup>
- World Kindness Day- November 13<sup>th</sup>

*\*Please note that these are not all observations throughout the month. If any were missed that relates to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion it was not intentional\**



What is being done at Ridgedale Elementary



PICTURE CAPTION: ‘Throw Shine’ collage in several languages.

‘Throw Shine, not Shade’

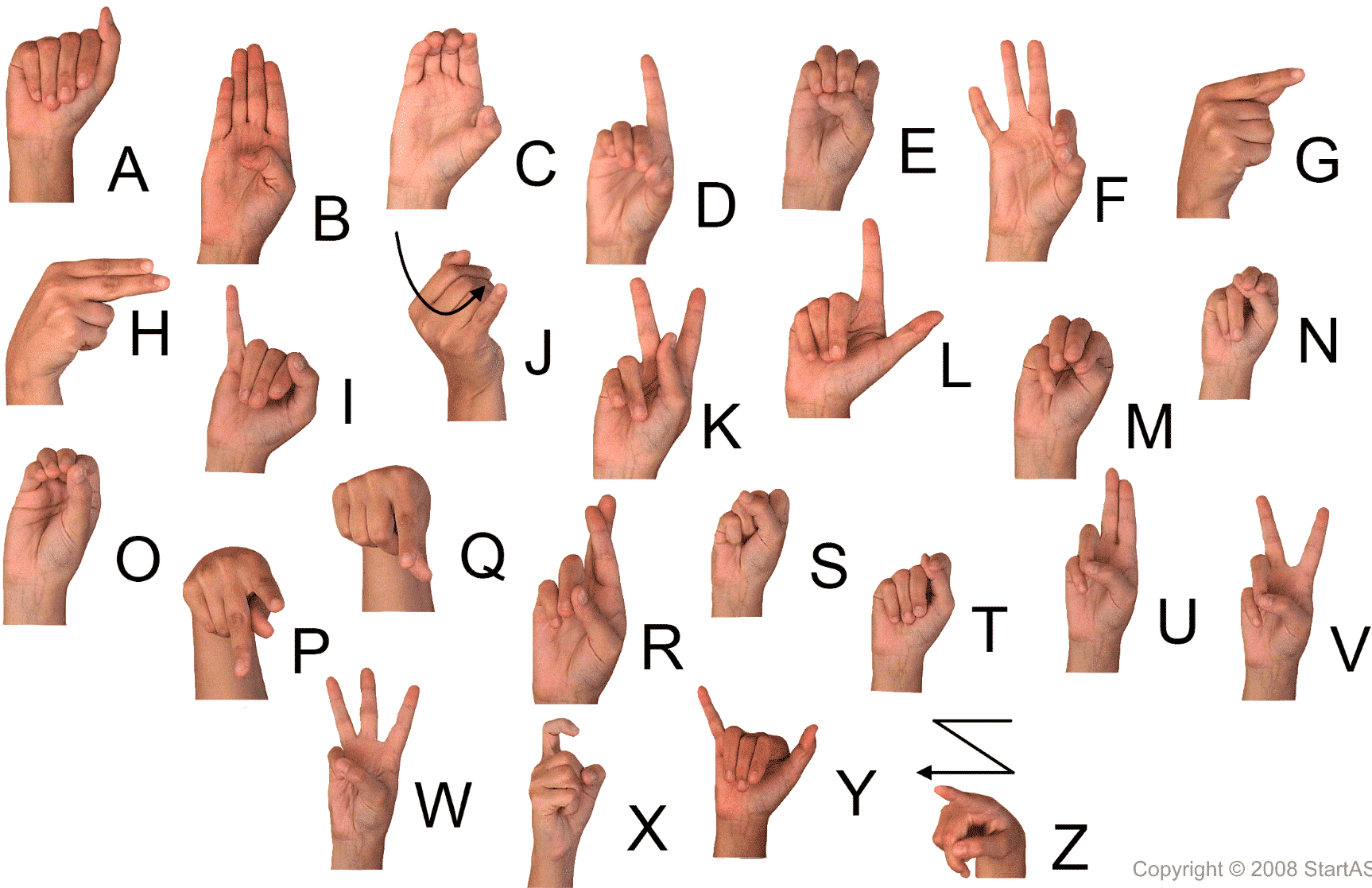
At Ridgedale, one of our well-known sayings is ‘throw shine, not shade’. The students and faculty end our daily morning announcements with ‘Throw Shine’! This is one of our routines to help remind everyone that we are a positive and welcoming school. For the month of October, morning announcements will end with our usual saying, however, it will be said in a different language each week. There will also be a world map that shows where that language is spoken predominantly.

Each grade level activities

Each grade level will be conducting activities that correspond with the monthly theme ‘language is unique all around the world’. Preschool will be learning to say hello in different languages as well as learning some sign language. Some grades will be labeling items in their rooms in a different language. It will be exciting to see all of the different activities incorporated into the classrooms.







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