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O'Fallon High School District 203 Receives Grant to Establish Project "BILIT"

February 14, 2023 – O'Fallon Township High School District 203 has received a five-year, $750,000 grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The grant will provide opportunities for OTHS students to develop fluency in a second language, engage in immersive cultural experiences, and will provide support to encourage both military-connected students and AFJROTC cadets to enroll in world languages.

Through creative uses of technology, Project "BILIT" (Bringing Intercultural Learning Through Innovative Techniques) will incorporate Mandarin Chinese courses, immerse students in authentic culture utilizing "Classrooms from Around the World" peer instruction and travel, and build capacity through teacher trainings at international universities.

"The resources provided by the DoDEA grant will open a world of opportunity for our World Language students and educators. The grant provides the foundational support needed to give our world language curriculum a global edge through the variety of immersive experiences that will be offered. OTHS is so very grateful for this tremendous opportunity.", stated Dr. Beth Shackelford, Director of Academics and Special Projects.

The grant will benefit all World Language students in grades 9-12. The school district serves students in military families with parents assigned to Scott Air Force Base. "Our past DODEA grants had a significant impact on the academic programming at OTHS. The World Language grant will provide opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be possible and will not only benefit our military connected students, but all OTHS students.", stated Dr. Benway, OTHS Superintendent.

"Our department is very excited for this grant because it will help our students advance their language skills and cultural awareness, which will in turn prepare them for living and working in a global and culturally diverse society.", stated Libby Magee, OTHS World Language Department Chair.

This is the fourth grant that O'Fallon Township High School District 203 has received from the Department of Defense Partnership Grant Program. A five-year DODEA grant for the OTHS Science Department will serve OTHS through 2023 and a five-year DODEA grant for the OTHS Career and Technical Education Department will serve OTHS through 2026.

For more information on this project please contact Jordan Sanchez at sanchezj@oths.us.