

SASSL

South Australian Secondary School of Languages

C/- Thebarton Primary School Campus

Rose Street, Mile End, S.A. 5031 Ph: 354 0754

Courier R9/3

WHAT IS SASSL?

The South Australian Secondary School of Languages is a South Australian secondary school specialising in the teaching of languages other than English. The school is open to students from State, Independent, Catholic and any other registered secondary schools in South Australia, as well as to T.A.F.E. students.

WHY WAS IT ESTABLISHED?

SASSL's function is to complement and supplement existing programmes either in mainstream or ethnic schools. It neither competes against nor acts as a substitute for such programmes. Students have an opportunity to study one or more languages not available in their own school. French, German, Greek and Italian are not included as they are readily available in many high schools.

WHEN ARE PROGRAMMES OFFERED?

Flexibility is a priority. Many language programmes function out of school hours during the week and occasionally on Saturdays in order to maximise access for students. Day classes are established whenever numbers are feasible.

HOW IS A PROGRAMME ESTABLISHED?

Consultations with parents and interested parties, schools and ethnic communities are an important element in the establishment and development of programmes. Once a need is identified, either by SASSL directly, or in response to a request from a community, a school, a group or interested individuals, the coordinator will examine the feasibility of establishing programmes.

The following factors will be considered in each case:

- suitability of location, and time tabling
- availability of teachers and resources
- cultural factors
- needs of country students
- community involvement
- Education Department language policy

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE in 1988

Croatian	Lithuanian	Khmer
Polish	Russian	Mandarin Chinese
Spanish	Vietnamese	Malay

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SASSL STUDENT?

The rules applying to SASSL students are those generally applying to any secondary student concerning attendance, behaviour, work and assessment.

- Students are given regular tests, homework and assessments.
- SASSL gives regular detailed reports of the student's progress sent to parents through the student's own principal.

WHAT DO THE PROGRAMMES INVOLVE?

- SASSL language programmes involve tuition and work requirements comparable to those of any core subject offered in a mainstream school
- Students are prepared for SSABSA accredited courses at the year 12 level
- Programmes cover years 8 to 12 levels.

SASSL. PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

The South Australian Secondary School of Languages (SASSL) began in February 1986 with 8 Khmer and 25 Polish students. By the end of 1986, 164 secondary boys and girls from Years 8 to 12 were studying Khmer, Polish, Vietnamese, and Lithuanian. In 1987 SASSL doubled in size to 380 students and saw the addition of Spanish, Croatian and Russian to its languages. SASSL has expanded further in 1988 with the inclusion of Mandarin Chinese and Malay, and the anticipated establishment of Serbian. For 1989 the feasibility of introducing Japanese and Indonesian is under examination. At present the school has an enrolment of 520 students.

Students from Government and non Government schools attend 39 classes in 9 languages during the day and after hours in centres ranging from as far as Parafield Gardens and Thomas More College in the North to Marion High School in the South, and Pennington to the West, with Adelaide High School as a most accessible focal point for many after hours students from all over the metropolitan area. Many students have a background in the language of their choice, there are also courses for complete beginners (Spanish/Russian). Both groups are considered equally important. SASSL operates within the spirit of the National Language Policy and the Education Department's Policy on Languages. This is evidenced by the spread and diversity of our language offering. Most students study a language with SASSL that they would not normally have had an opportunity to study in the past. These are both European and Asian languages.

The co-operation and support of the parent body, the School Council, and ethnic groups is a strong factor in the school's success, as is the devotion of its teachers, who are very sensitive to the special needs of their students.

SASSL follows a two pronged approach involving on the one hand language maintenance and development, and on the other the seeding of new languages of international significance that are presently under represented in our education system i.e. Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Arabic, to quote but some.

The school is facing the future, with confidence and enthusiasm, knowing that it will continue to serve the interest of growing numbers of students of languages other than English, and actively foster multiculturalism in South Australia.

Interested groups and individuals are invited to contact the school directly for further information at the following address.

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