

Nice: March 28-April 1

Eighth-grade students taking French as an additional language were invited to spend a week in Nice, France, to further develop their skills. Students were involved in many activities, some of which included visiting the Allianz Riviera stadium, taking a cooking class, and going to the Musee Matisse.

Eighth-grade student Ryan Khatiblou believes that the trip was very beneficial for him. "It helped me become more confident with talking to people in French because I don't always have that confidence to go up to people and try to have a full conversation, but that helped me become more comfortable with speaking in French," he said.

However, the most challenging aspect of the trip for him was when a local said something he didn't understand. "You just have to work your way through it, and try to do your best," Khatiblou said.



Photo by Meher Sareen
Students walk toward Cours Saleya, a market in Nice. In the market, students walked around and were allowed to buy things.

For future students taking the French trip, Khatiblou suggests to speak French whenever you can even if it may be challenging, as it really helps your confidence grow and improves your speaking skills.

Valencia: March 28-April 1

Another trip destination in Spain was Valencia. The most popular activity was spending time at a beach, and 60 percent of the students chose it as their favorite activity. On the other hand, the least popular activity among students was the walking tour, with 30 percent of students picking it as their least favorite. Some other activities included a picnic in an orange orchard, doing a workshop in a ceramics museum, and visiting the Oceanographic Museum.

Lola Tamman, an eighth-grade student who went on this trip, won first place in a Kahoot in the Oceanographic Museum against students from other schools about protecting the environment. The Kahoot had about 300 participants and was in Spanish. The museum allowed Tamman to feed their dolphins in a show as a prize.

Eighth-grade student Toiyo Diya also attended the trip. She said, "I would definitely recommend to pack lightly because people on my trip did buy a lot of things. I would recommend to bring money as well." She added that it is helpful to bring a portable charger because they were out for a long time during the day."

Ms. Montaraz, the middle school world languages team leader, said, "I think that my favorite part about the trip is when the students get together with students from another school in Spain and they interact, ask each other questions, play, and use the language in an authentic manner."



Photo by Ayla Rafiq
Toiyo Diya creates a pot in a ceramics class with assistance from the instructor. This was Diya's favorite activity.

Eighth-grade students learn about new cultures, tour the world

Articles and layout by Diana Mynzhanova and Amy Sergeant
Scroll Editors

Taipei: March 24-April 1



Photo by Diana Mynzhanova
Gabriela Sims, Elise Eddy, and Elsa Skorski release a lantern. They wrote aspirations in both Mandarin and English before letting it go.

students indulged in the culture and participated in many linguistic activities.

The students were kept occupied, as there was a wide variety of activities to partake in, including (but not limited to) cycling to Guandu, exploring the night market, and hiking to Jiufun old town. Eighth-grade student Sophie Yeliseev especially enjoyed visiting the Taipei 101 tower.

Yeliseev was pleasantly surprised during the trip, as she believed it would be more restricting. "I thought that we would have less freedom, so it was nice that we were allowed to walk around the markets by ourselves and just explore the country," she said.

Additionally, she felt as though she benefited greatly from the trip. "I learnt a lot about the culture, and got to improve my speaking skills. We talked a lot in Chinese, so all that practice really helped me get better and more confident in my speaking."

For future students going on the trip, Yeliseev recommends being prepared, since most activities include either interacting with locals, ordering food, or asking questions/directions.

Eighth-grade students taking Mandarin were given the rare opportunity to improve their language skills outside of the classroom in Taipei, Taiwan. Every day,

Toledo: March 28- April 1

Some students who are currently learning Spanish went to Toledo, Spain, where they participated in many activities to learn about the Spanish culture and improve their Spanish-speaking skills. During the trip, these students also visited Madrid. Twenty-nine percent of the students enjoyed going to the Bernabéu Stadium the most. The Bernabéu Stadium is the home stadium of Real Madrid, a popular football club. However, students did not enjoy the Prado Museum, a Spanish art museum, as much, with 29 percent of students surveyed choosing it as their least favorite activity.



Photo by Emily Iannazzo
Students Stella Christodoulou and Otto Skibeli chop vegetables for a Spanish dish called pisto in a culinary school in Toledo. 14.3% of students enjoyed this activity the most.

Mr. Peter Hosier, the seventh and eighth-grade counselor and health teacher, was one of the teachers who went on the Toledo trip. He said, "I think that it [the trip] gives them [the students] authentic reasons to use the language and so it encourages them to use more Spanish and use their Spanish in a more natural environment."

However, Mr. Hosier added that his limited knowledge of the Spanish language was a challenge for him at times.

Eighth-grade student Violetta Barattieri di San Pietro said, "I think it's important to see how people that actually speak Spanish speak."

Barattieri di San Pietro also noted that it was less touristy than she expected. She advises students going on the trip in the future to check the weather beforehand.

Madrid: March 28-April 1



Photo by Aden Ovenden
Students walk around the city of Madrid. They are on their way to the Prado Museum, a Spanish art museum.

One-third of the eighth-grade students taking Spanish were given the opportunity to visit Madrid to further improve their language skills. Every day, they participated in a variety of activities, some of which included visiting the Prado Museum, spending the day in Toledo, and taking a cooking class where they made paella, tortilla,

and crema catalana.

Eighth-grade student Noelle Quintin thought that the cooking challenge was one of her favorite activities, especially because she enjoys baking in general.

Quintin believes that the trip was very beneficial for her, since she was able to speak with locals. She explained that the best part of the trip was "having the freedom to talk with random strangers who spoke Spanish and being able to converse with them because I feel like we learnt a lot more Spanish than that just in class."

For students planning to take this trip next year, she suggests going there for educational purposes. "Make sure that you're willing to actually speak the language and you're not just going there for the fun of it because it is actually a great learning experience and I would definitely advise trying at least a little bit to speak."