

# International Languages Elementary – African Heritage Testimonials

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Parents and guardians of our various classes submitted testimonials of their experience with our online classes this summer. Below is a selection of the submissions.

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The Marathi classes were a way for my daughter to finally get some exposure to Marathi lessons, as we don't really speak it at home. I can truly already see the improvement in Lara's Marathi knowledge and speaking in 3 short weeks. The instructor was able to find topics to keep the kids interested and easy for the parents to reinforce at home even if we don't have any Marathi background ourselves (that's me! :)). I am very glad we signed up for this virtual class as Marathi isn't offered at our TDSB school.

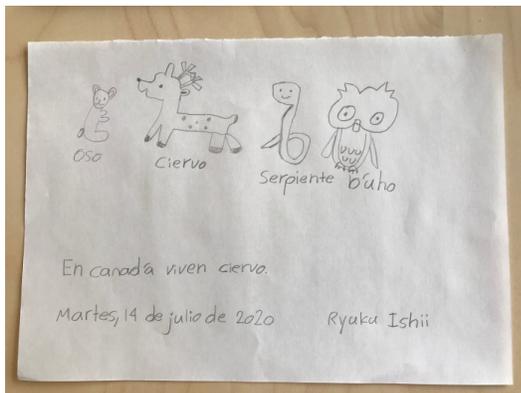
## **Mediha, Marathi language parent**

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Hola!

Thank you always for taking your time. We enjoyed learning vocabularies of animals today! The Flashcards are helpful too.

Here is my child's homework!



My child knows different types of snakes, so he chose a "serpiente" for one of animals. (And we often see garden snakes when we take a walk.) Also, we saw an owl in the backyard of grandparents house! So he chose "búho" too.

Gracias. We look forward to tomorrow's lesson too!

## **Mariko, Spanish language parent**

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Thank you for creating such fun and high quality virtual learning environment for the children. The lessons and ppt presentations were all amazing, I can see a lot of late nights and weekends were spent preparing all the material. My daughter learned so much from the short daily meeting with you, I never feel bad just letting her

play for the rest of the day without further supplemental works! Her Chinese has improved drastically within the past 3 weeks!

You are an inspiration to the children AND their parents! I really enjoyed sitting in your classes with Clarabel, as an educator myself, I've gained one very valuable experience from your teaching method.

The classes are organized with just the right amount of material to keep the kids engaged: a song, a new topic everyday and 2 writing exercises related to the topic; all within 30 mins and it was not overwhelming at all! Thank you for pushing the children in your class to always be their best selves.

I admire your magical talent to keep the kids engaged and stay focused during class, with your nice calm voice and paying attention to the littlest detail to each child. Thank you for teaching the kids the importance of discipline, to always greet the teacher first at the beginning of the class and say good bye properly at the end of the class.

Thank you again for everything, we look forward to this last week of Cantonese class, we are going to miss this!

Regards,

**Scarlett, Mandarin language parent**

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Good Morning,

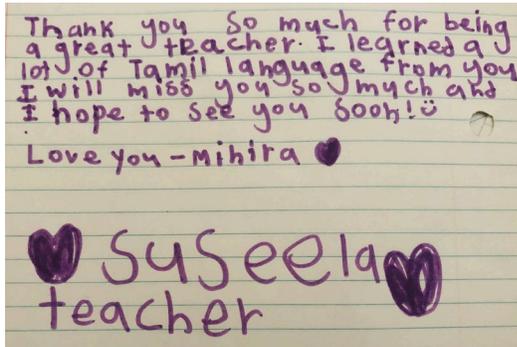
This is Kateryna, Theodore's mother. Theodore is a student in your summer language Russian class. Theodore has thoroughly enjoyed each one of your classes and has attended them all. Your pedagogical approaches are very captivating equating to my son picking up the Russian language at a fast pace. He has learned to read basic Russian words faster than basic English words -English being his first language. Although we speak Russian/Ukrainian to him at home he used to always answer back to us in English, but after this course, he now responds in Russian to our delight. It is all because of your exceptional teaching and approach with students. I would love for Theodore to continue taking Russian with you in the Fall.

Thank you for all that you do. You truly are exceptional.

**Kateryna, Russian language parent**

Hello Mam,

Thank you so much for all your effort and guidance throughout this Tamil class. This Tamil class was very helpful and encouraging my daughter to start talking and learning Tamil. She is too sad that she's gonna miss you and the class. We are looking forward to join her in the next session. I would like to share with you few of her rendition that she learned from this class.



**Bhuvana, Tamil language parent**

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Hi,

This is Jeremiah's (Eddy) mom writing. I wanted to send to a quick thank-you note for the amazing job you are doing with the kids. It's not easy to teach virtually especially with your young children. Thank you for your passion for teaching Mandarin Chinese to young children.

You are an amazing Chinese teacher.

Take care,

**Judy, Chinese language parent**

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Hi,

Thanks so much for the Telugu Online Classes. My kid is enjoying them and learning a lot with interesting topics. Language of Saharsh is improving due to the interactive sessions. Hope you will continue this classes. Once again Thanks for all your efforts. Looking forward to be a part of the next summer Telugu classes.

Thanks,

**Kalyan (Saharsh), Telugu language parent**

Hi,

This is Nandini, Mother of Sarah Kalaiganan.I am very happy with the class. The teacher is simply amazing. My daughter loves the way she teaches and is always excited to go to class. The work is also very moderate and is at the correct level. Overall, I am very happy with the ILE Tamil Class.

**Nandini, Tamil language parent**

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Hi,

The TDSB Summer Class for learning Tamil language has been going really well for the last 2 weeks. My daughter Varuna's reading and writing has developed considerably. I am very happy with the way Ms.Vijay is teaching. Her learning materials are challenging and it focuses on the topic set forth by TDSB.

Overall a very satisfying learning experience.

Appreciate all the effort Ms.Vijay has taken and for TDSB to organize this whole program.

With Regards,

**Archana Ramar, Tamil language parent**

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Hello,

Just wanted to drop a note regarding the Tamil classes organized by TDSB. My daughter Arshia Shaik is attending these classes of Mrs. Vijenthira,Sriranjani. The classes are going well. My daughter has improved a lot in a very short span of time. She could only talk tamil before these classes. Now she is able to read and write small words which makes me extremely happy.This also created her interest in the language. This mail is to extend my heartfelt thanks to you, the teacher Mrs. Vijenthira,Sriranjani and TDSB for arranging this program.

Thanks,

**Rania Kaleem, Tamil language parent**

Good morning,

Zakaria is loving the online Arabic course. Zakaria is enjoying the class it improved his oral skills in arabic. Also the topics are extremely helpful he is happy that he can match his knowledge and skills in Arabic language. I believe the online class has been a success for Zakaria he is using what he learned in class and forming short sentences, thank you for your help and support. Have a great weekend.

Thank you,

**Kawthar Itani, Arabic language parent**

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Hello!

We are so happy with Niki's learning of Greek. The class run well and accommodating to all the learners. The activities are fun and meaningful. And the instructor is friendly, engaging and well planned and organized and extremely knowledgeable. It's our first experiences with TDSB language classes and are very impressed.

Thank you for all your hard work,

**Tina, Greek language parent**

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Assalamo Alaikom,

I want to thank you for the efforts you are doing to make learning Arabic language fun for my son Maahir. Every day he is looking forward to your class. Also, I am so impressed at how he is improving in both understanding and speaking Arabic.

**Nazha, Arabic language parent**

Just wanted to say thank you for the class, my daughter Keira is enjoying it.

I know she's a little on a shy side since she doesn't speak Russian, not as advanced as others but she tries hard. And she loves your interactive way of teaching.

I know that my name (Olya Pak) on her virtual window isn't helping with remembering and the fact that there's another Kira in class.

She gets confused who you're asking for and most of the times keeps quiet.

Hopefully she'll warm up soon and be more active with your help.

Thanks again for doing it, I really appreciate it and the fact that my daughter is learning from you.

Best,

**Olga, Russian language parent**

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Hello,

Claudia has done a great job during the ILE summer camp/program, using an approach to communication and learning through critical thinking and experimentation, while implementing an abundance of tools and sources. We believe her classes have made a world of difference during these participating kids summer. They had a safe space for mutual engagement and interactions, much needed under the current restrictions, and were able to learn through open discussions and hands-on activities. The written communication with parents and campers was always clear and sent in a timely manner, and she posted online many interesting suggestions to extend the engagement beyond the live hours. She did bring the kids closer to the Romanian language, culture, and personalities, along the general themes.

Thank you for a wonderful program, have a safe and happy summer!

**Roxana Balescu, Romanian language parent**

I know Christina from 8 years ago, when my son start to go to International Language program - Romanian. Every Saturday my son was excited to go to Romanian program. In grade 4 and 5 my son met Christina as a teacher and he was very happy to see that Christina is very innovative and all the time she has something new and very creative pushing him to show his creativity also.

When he started to have this year remotely camp he was very sure with Christina will be fun and he doesn't know when the time is gone. He doesn't want to finish this camp and he was disappointed when I told him that is the last week of Romanian camp.

He was always waiting for the camp hour with excitement, preparing his projects about animals and insects. There where diversity of subjects and even challenges (to create a song together).

Any time a program with Christina, which put a lot of heart in this, it will be a pleasure. Kids really like to get connected and participate.

Thank you to every body for this program!

**Mihaela Comsa, Romanian language parent**

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I just wanted to say THANK YOU for an amazing summer school. While, initially, Stefan was a bit reticent about joining the class given that he has never had any formal schooling in Romanian, he ended up enjoying your class very much. He liked the variety of activities, your encouraging and supportive attitude and the warm learning environment you managed to create in such a short time. He learned a lot from you and the other classmates and would like to continue in the fall if there is the option to do so!

Thank you very much and have a wonderful summer ahead! MULTUMESC!

Best wishes,

**Claudia (& Stefan), Romanian language parent**

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Hello,

I wanted to take a moment to provide feedback on the virtual Romanian camp offered via TDSB this July.

When I heard there was a virtual Romanian camp, I was extremely excited. My daughter was attending Romanian language class before the pandemic, and being able to practice over the summer, from the comfort of our own homes, has been amazing. My daughter looks forward to her class every day. The structure of the class is solid, and children know what to expect. Every class begins with the teacher asking each child how their day is going, to start up conversation. Then, a video is presented and there is a conversation regarding the video. My daughter loved talking about her day and she loved watching a video every day. My daughter thrives on routine, and by mid session, she was so excited to talk about her day and curious about the video of the day.

Nathalie was a phenomenal teacher, and she was able to involve the children in the discussion. Some children were shy or apprehensive at first, but Nathalie was able to get them excited about the class.

I am very thankful for such a great teacher, and that this program was run. Thank you!

**Alexandra Misan, Romanian language parent**

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We want to say that we are really happy with our daughter's progress in Romanian language. You managed to keep her interest every day with the variety of activities. We were also happy to get all the feedback and the details about what you did with the children. You really put in a lot of effort and your dedication showed off every day.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the summer with your family!

**Ramona M & family**

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Hi,

Just wanted to let you know how much my son Alex enjoys the Romanian camp. Not only did he improve a lot his Romanian speaking skills, but I was very happy to see how he learned a lot about the history, literature and Romanian personalities. He had fun while learning a lot!

I want to thank you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of Alex and family!

Wishing you a safe and wonderful rest of the summer,

**Alexandra, Romanian language parent**

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Although my daughter did not participate every day, she made progress in speaking and also was willing to learn better Romanian. She enjoyed all the materials provided for work and started to sing along some of the songs. Overall all the experience was a great one, as it still kept her focused and in a learning mode. Thank you to all who joined their efforts to make this program possible.

Thanks,

**Roxana Ichim, Romanian language parent**

Hi,

I spoke with Abby and she likes the games and Spanish. She has been enjoying the class very much and I can see her improvement a lot.

Now, my comments as a mom are that I also enjoy the class and I admire your patience. The way you address the kids is always very kind.

Thank you very much for your time and for helping Abby in her learning and confidence.

Jasminka, thank you so much for your help in adding Abby to the class and for having this kind of course during this difficult time.

Best regards,

**Karina, Spanish language parent**

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Hello,

I am Vijay Bhatia, Monish Bhatia's dad.

We are extremely happy with your Spanish class and look forward to enroll Monish full time under your supervision. Let me know if there is any such class/ training you have / teach.

We are also very happy with the way you discipline the distracted kids and ask them to be more attentive.

Monish is picking up on the words / sounds being taught. I was amazed when he sang the Happy Birthday song in Spanish for my mom on a video call.

I am overall satisfied with TDSB's extra language class.

Regards,

**Vijay Bhatia, Spanish language parent**

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Hello,

This is Orlando, I am the dad of Isabella Gomez Hart.

I wanted to say that as a Spanish teacher myself, I have so much admiration for you as I imagine taking up on this challenging online-format with kids cannot be easy.

Thank you so much for the great work. Talk to you soon!

**Orlando, Spanish language parent**

Thank you for feedback on Harsha .... Much appreciated ....We are ABSOLUTELY delighted & blessed to have you as Harsha's teacher. She loves the subject, enjoys your coaching and we are thankful to you !!!

**Utpal Mangla, Spanish language parent**

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Ana is really enjoying your class. Thank you for all of your efforts in moving the course online and for the enthusiasm you have shown toward the children's learning. We really appreciate it. This is the most enthusiasm Ana has ever had for a Spanish course - you are making it really great for her - thank you!

Muchas gracias,

**Heather (Ana Parra's Mom), Spanish language parent**

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Good morning,

I would like to say thank you for these classes. Lara is enjoying the lessons and she is learning so much. Lara says you are very patient and nice :)

Thank you for the opportunity and hopefully this program continues and we are able to join.

Best regards,

**Karina, Spanish language parent**

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Although Spanish is my first language, English is the language spoken at my home the majority of the time and this is the first time that my daughter, Isabella Gomez Hart is exposed to a Spanish class.

My wife and I are satisfied with Ms. Iribarren's structure guidance, patience, and professionalism. Above all, Ms. Iribarren had to conduct her class Online due to this year's pandemic, which is probably out of her standard class domain and comfort zone. Nonetheless, she managed to engage and capture the interest of my daughter, along with the other children, while tackling every sort of technical challenges that came along the new environment.

We look forward to future Spanish workshops with Ms. Iribarren, a great teacher!

Thank you,

**Orlando, Spanish language parent**

Dear Ms. Brunet,

Jay Cyril enjoyed being part of this Online Spanish course. He had a great experience.

As a beginner's course, Jay learned quite well in such a short period. The learning objectives were explicit, the lessons were very interesting, focusing on different topics and the homework was very good and relevant. He enjoyed all the classes and the materials presented.

Thank you Ms. Brunet for all your efforts during this challenging time and for being helpful, supportive, open to every question Jay had, which made him always excited to join your class.

We wish you a peaceful and safe rest of summer.

**Maha Khouri, Spanish language parent**

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Assalam u Alaikum, Ms. Nasir,

I would personally like to thank you for being an excellent teacher. Umamah has really learned a lot in this short time in your class. She did not know to write at all but you taught her very well. Your classes were beneficial for me as well. With your daily lessons and worksheet, you have given me a guideline for how I can help Umamah to learn Urdu at home. I really liked your teaching style and your conduct with kids. I think you have really motivated them to learn Urdu.

Thanks

**Tahreem - Umamah's Mom, Urdu language parent**

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Hi,

We wanted to thank you for the wonderful Hindi classes that you have taken for my son Ronit Shepherd. He absolutely didn't have any knowledge of Hindi but now he's able to speak small sentences and words. The classes were regular and punctual, every student had a chance to ask questions and clarify their doubts. One of my friends child also wanted to join the class so please do let me know how they can enroll and also when would you start the next session.

Many thanks!!!

Regards,

**Avin, Urdu language parent**