



How does language define us here at Mark Twain?

This year, 31 languages* are represented by our Mark Twain families. We know this is a magnificent gift and want to capitalize on this opportunity – so, we are developing Mark Twain’s **1st Language Initiative**, which include several different efforts:

- Morning announcements now feature any additional languages in the classroom that hosts the announcements that week.
- The HISD Multilingual Department is preparing brief power point presentations about the Chinese, Arabic, Korean and Japanese languages – to be shared also on our morning announcements. These 4 languages are our most populous languages after Spanish and English.
- Students are beginning to develop their personal “Language Profile.”
- During our **Annual International Festival**, we will celebrate our **1st Languages** with a writing booth, a book booth and sharing how our many languages define us.

*The 31 languages are: English, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Farsi, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Turkish, Urdu, Tamil, Cantonese, Hebrew, Hindi, Russian, Hungarian, Serbian, Albanian, Bengali, Greek, Gujarati, Ilonggo, Kannada, Konkani, Marathi, Swahili, Telugu, Thai, and French. This list was compiled from information provided by parents during school registration.

Please be in touch to help us realize this wonderful gift of languages here at Mark Twain.

Thank you! Kathleen Blakeslee, IB Coordinator, KBLAKESL@houstonisd.org