

- What was the first course you took in language?

The first language I took was an intro to both Italian and Spanish in middle school. I enjoyed Italian the most because I was able to learn something new and honestly, I wanted a challenge. I already spoke Spanish I believed that continuing with Italian was going to be more beneficial, I ended up sticking with Italian and I didn't regret it one bit.

- What course inspired you to continue in language and why?

This is somewhat of a difficult question because I can't pick one it was both language courses. In high school I was able to take both languages which was a great opportunity because I didn't have to give up one language for the other.

- How do you feel language has developed your skillset in other subjects?

Language has helped in other subjects in various ways. For example, when learning a language, you don't only learn the grammar and vocabulary, but also the history, customs and traditions. A lot of the times in history class when we were being introduced to the history of a Spanish speaking country, I was able to participate more and felt well prepared for the lesson because it activated my prior knowledge. Also, when reading certain novels authors would use Italian or Spanish words that I was able to understand which gave me an upper hand when it came to understand the context of the chapter or reading at hand.

- Do you feel you have improved your ability by taking a college level world language course?

Taking a college level class definitely improved my ability, by the time I was in college I had about twelve credits of language (both languages offered at Malverne), which not only saved me time in college, but also a lot of money. I say that it saved me time because I majored in Spanish Education from day one, I did not have to take any lower level language courses because I had the credits from high school. In a way I was ahead of my education classmates. Also, taking advanced world language classes in high school prepared me to handle college workload. College classes require a lot and I felt more than prepared because my teachers had been preparing me for 2 years in my case because I took college level courses for 2 years.

*-Luisa Peralta (former ELL, alumni and World Language teacher - Malverne, L.I.)*