



Community Languages Schools

Ambassador Program Alumni Profile



Stephania Mandziy

My name is Stephania Mandziy and I am proud to be a Ukrainian language speaker and Community Languages Ambassador.

I began learning Ukrainian at the age of two at St Andrew's Ukrainian School, where my Saturday mornings were spent reading, writing, speaking and exploring the traditions behind the language. Over time, I came to realise how deeply it connected me to my family's stories, my community's history and the cultural traditions I am proud to represent.



" Learning Ukrainian has always been about preserving heritage, strengthening community connections and embracing new opportunities."

Throughout my journey, I have been fortunate to share my language and culture in many meaningful ways. I performed with the Community Languages Schools Youth Choir at events such as the Premier's Harmony Dinner and the Children's Festival Harmony Walk, modelled traditional Ukrainian clothing for Vyshyvanka Day at the National Gallery of Australia and Sydney Town Hall and represented my heritage at cultural festivals and parades. Speaking Ukrainian has also given me the opportunity to welcome displaced children into our school community, helping them feel at home in a new country.

Since 2022, I have taken on leadership roles within the Ukrainian Youth Association, guiding younger members and contributing to the growth of our community. In August, I was privileged to attend a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of 100 years of the Ukrainian Youth Association in Germany and Belgium. This global gathering brought together young Ukrainians from around the world, strengthening our shared identity and commitment to preserving our culture for future generations.

Being bilingual has opened countless opportunities for me – from performing in our school's Bandura Band at national events to participating in art competitions that celebrate cultural identity. More importantly, it has taught me the value of empathy, respect, and cultural understanding. For me, learning Ukrainian has always been about preserving heritage, strengthening community connections and embracing new opportunities. It has given me a strong sense of belonging both within the Ukrainian community and the wider Australian society.