



# Community Languages Schools

## Ambassador Program Student Profile



### Tekla Peterffy

My name is Tekla Peterffy. Hungarian is not just my mother tongue; it's my community language and a vital part of my life. My immersion in the Hungarian language began from birth. From a young age, I engaged in a multitude of cultural activities such as attending the Hungarian school, participating in Scouts, being part of the Hungarian church community, dancing with a folk-dance group, visiting nursing homes, and attending various Hungarian events. This rich tapestry of experiences has been a constant throughout my life.



*“It's not merely about language; it's about delving deeper into my cultural roots.”*

During my primary school years, I had the privilege of receiving the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement for community language school students. In 2021, I reached a significant milestone by completing the Higher School Certificate. I am proud to say that I ranked second in NSW in the Hungarian Continuers course.

Attending a community language school has been immensely beneficial. It was not merely about learning a language; but enabled me to delve deeper into my cultural roots. Through these classes, I was able to explore Hungarian history, geography, culture, and significant cultural and historical events. Going to classes each week enabled me to develop strong friendships and bonds that continue to enrich my adult life.

Bilingualism has been a key that has unlocked countless doors in my life. I'm forever grateful for the ability to communicate with non-English-speaking relatives and to explore the world, meet incredible people, and forge lifelong friendships. Additionally, being bilingual offers significant social advantages — it eases communication with people from diverse cultures, enabling us to see the world through different lenses.

While it can be challenging for younger generations to fully embrace and understand their culture and heritage, it is crucial to grasp the significance and power that comes from learning a community language. The opportunities that arise from understanding another language are beyond imagination — shaping personal identity, enhancing academic and career prospects, improving communication skills, and boosting confidence in self-expression.

When embarking on the path of learning a community language, don't hesitate to seek help. Immerse yourself in the culture, connect with people, and form lifelong friendships. Be proud of your heritage, seize every opportunity to learn your language, and discover the invaluable treasures of your culture.