



# THE SUMMIT

ELEVATING EDUCATION AT BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume 1

April 15, 2024

## ALUMNI UPDATE - Ellie Punnett



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*Ellie Punnett, Alumna*

### Dual Immersion Inaugural Class

Ellie Punnett was in the first dual immersion class 20 years ago.

#### **How has the dual immersion program impacted your life?**

I was able to use my Spanish to double major in college and came out with two degrees in the same time as many people complete their one degree. I received scholarships for my Spanish performance during school which eased the financial burden of completing a post-secondary degree.

This has been a huge asset to me in so many different ways. Besides being able to read, write, and hold conversations in a second language, having the diploma has been attractive to my employers, and has opened doors for more opportunities for me to grow both professionally and personally.

I was lucky enough to live in Europe for two years after graduating from college and without my Spanish knowledge I would not have been able to travel and enjoy my time there nearly as much as if I only spoke English.

#### **Any advice for students and their parents?**

This is such a unique opportunity that so many individuals, families, and communities are not presented with. I can say wholeheartedly and without a doubt that dual immersion changed my life for the better and am so grateful to have been part of the inaugural class.



When I was in the program I felt like I was missing out on a normal grade school experience but given the chance to do it over I wouldn't change a thing! I'm sure the program has changed a ton since I started kindergarten over 20 years ago but the objective is the same - providing kids in the Wood River Valley an opportunity to diversify their education, learn a second language, and open doors for them in multiple different areas of life down the road.

I couldn't be happier that my parents were able to get me into dual immersion and that it has had such a huge impact on my life so far!

