



Various learning systems spread globally

Education around the world show similarities and differences; several ideas for curriculums shared among educators

Aurora Robinson

News Editor

Chloe Love

Assistant News Editor

There are multitudes of varying education plans and curriculums across the globe. Some different aspects of an education system may work better than others in the world. Several even have a unique idea to help students progress farther at a younger age.

School calendars in England and how they line up with the year can be compared and contrasted to the United States. Kirsty Silkstone has children in a primary school in England called All Saints Church of England.

“They’ve got three terms, the autumn term, spring term, and summer term, and then in between those terms they will have their three main holidays. So, you know, the summer holidays, Easter holidays, and Christmas holidays, but then within each term they will have a half term for a week,” said Silkstone.

Even how offered courses are structured and combined can be different. Primary schools in Ireland have a handful of classes that are part of their daily subjects, and some that are only taught every so often.

“They would do math, English, Irish, and then, because it’s a Catholic school, you’d do religion. It’s not actually called religion. It is actually called SPHE, which actually stands for social, personal, and health education, so it covers all of that. Then they would do another subject which is called SESE, and that is basically your history, geography, and biology all wrapped up in one. And generally they’re done on a daily basis. And then on a Friday they might have, say not do religion, but they might have, say, the PE this week and then next week they might have music,” said Justine Maïni, a classroom assistant at Kilasolan National school in Ireland.

With the dominant language in the United States being English, we have

English courses and are given the option to take another language. Several other countries have more than one main language, so they may teach the students to be bilingual as part of the curriculum.

“We are a dual medium school, so we teach English and Afrikaans to the children. We only have one class per grade so we have to teach the English and Afrikaans learners the content subjects at the same time. Double the work really. IsiXhosa is taught once a week for 30 minutes,” said Lindsey van der Schyff, a teacher at Kenton on Sea primary school in South Africa.

With how some different countries line up their grade levels and coordinate their classes, some students, like those in England, are more advanced in certain areas than students in other countries.

“And Hailey, so she’s seven, she knows all of the times tables from one to 12. She reads fluently. It’s crazy. I often, I say to her that at her age I was just learning how to read and she is already,” said Silkstone.

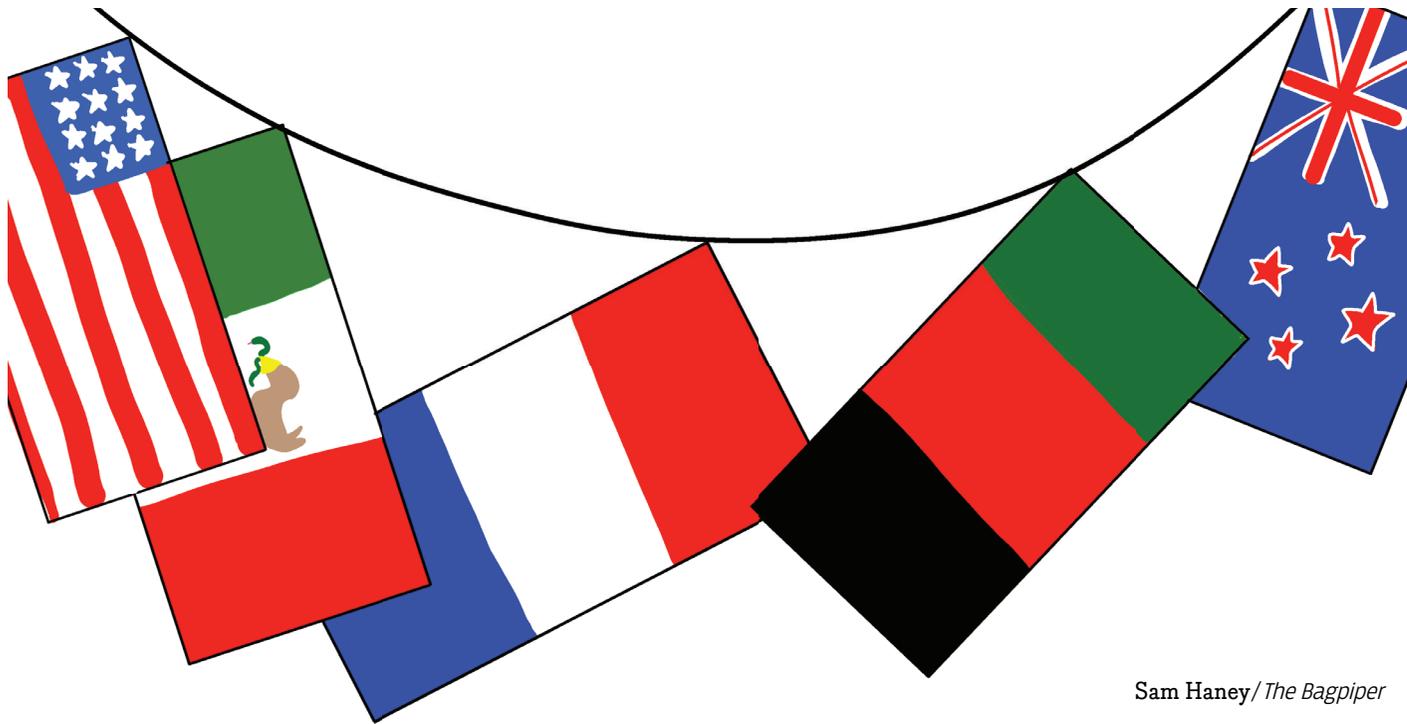
“Last week, her homework, they were doing multiplication, but like three digit and she was working it out herself and I’m like ‘good on you.’”

Report cards and test grades are common for schools, but not all have the same way of evaluating their students, what they base their knowledge off of, or creating their progress reports.

“They have spelling tests, they will have tests on the computers, they do math tests, but it is all in class and you never see any results. At the end of each year you get told, so instead of having, you know, your A to F grades, you will have above expected, at expected level, working toward expected level, and well below expected level,” said Silkstone.

A school’s rules and decisions determine several aspects of the school system, such as consequences held in the schools. There are schools that stick with the older ways and others may create fresh techniques to handle the children.

“I think the worst one could be

Sam Haney/*The Bagpiper*

exclude from the school or you can have this, but just for a few days. And the more common one was to have to stay, like, one hour after the end of your courses. You stay one hour in the classroom with someone looking at you while you just have to write some words and always the same, like 'I shouldn't write on the table' or 'I shouldn't eat chewing gum'," said Clémence Petitier Chomaille, a student in France.

In America, it is mainly the private schools that require students to wear uniforms. In countries like Australia, both public and private schools wear a uniform of some sort. Disa Dyson, who has children in Ormiston College in Australia, uses her son named Thomas as an example of an expensive private school.

"It costs a stack more privately than it does publicly because the public uniforms, as well, you can get at like Kmart. So it's all just simple colors. I mean you can pick up a uniform for about two dollars for a pair of shorts and the same for a shirt. Whereas I bought Tom five shirts this week and that was 200 dollars," said Dyson.

Along with different uniforms for both private and public schools in a few countries,

multiple school sports often differ between private and public schools.

"Well, in public school you only get like, probably, basketball, volleyball and pretty much that's it. You don't have a lot of choices. When you are in a private school, well, they don't have American football like they do here, but they can do like soccer, they can do tennis, they can do more sophisticated stuff, and even baseball. It's a big thing in Mexico. It is very expensive to afford. Like here, for example, the registration, let's say its like between 50 and 100 dollars for a kid. Out there we're talking about probably 200 dollars. It's not easy to afford something like that," said Lucero Arana, who attended schools in Mexico.

Most of the world uses the metric system, and the United States uses the customary system. In Ireland, the measuring system they use had been changed many times and there was a very recent shift in it. Many people who live there now use the old and new measurement systems.

"The metric system came in the 90s. For instance, distance. You would be in miles, and then it was changed over to kilometers. But the kilograms and the liters

and centimeters, that metric system was already in play from the 60s and 70s. So some people, not the children currently at school, but their parents and particularly their grandparents will still talk about how many miles away the house is, or how many pounds of flour I need to bake a cake, or how many ounces," said Maïni. "When people are, say, weighing themselves, they will not talk about kilograms. They will talk about pounds and ounces, but in Ireland they will talk about, say, 'I am 14 stone and three pounds'. So in a stone, there is I think 14 pounds in one stone."

A system of education has the ability to change all the time, with the right effort. The system in the United States could change if educators have a good idea to share. Ideas about education are spread locally, nationally, and world-wide.

"Educators are stealing from each other all the time," said world language department head Shannon Dunlap. "You know, whether I am stealing from the teacher down there. If it's a good idea, it's a good idea. You know, and some of your best ideas come from observing or taking strategies from other people."

Q&A with doctor from Afghanistan Dost Mohammed

Bagpiper: Were schools in Afghanistan taught different languages?

Dost Mohammed:

"In Afghanistan, they have two national languages. One is called Pashto and the other called Dari. Those are the two national languages. So students would study in both of them. If your maternal tongue, or mother tongue, is Dari, you study more in Dari, but you take classes in Pashto. If your mother tongue is Pashto, you study in Pashto and you take some classes in Dari."

BP: What sports were offered in schools there?

DM: "So soccer, or football, was one of them. Volleyball was the second because you just need a net and a ball and people can do that. They also had, in our schools, we had running."