



## Bridges Language School partners with Daniel Island Academy on new Spanish language program

DANIEL ISLAND, South Carolina (July 22, 2009) – Bridges Language School founder Mary Beall has partnered with Daniel Island Academy to offer a new Spanish language program to the school's three-year-old, four-year old, and kindergarten students.

Beall has over 30 years of personal experience in language learning. She teaches English as a second language, learned three foreign languages, and has lived overseas for half her adult life. Beall earned a triple major degree in French, Spanish and History from Queens College, participated in three study-abroad programs, and was awarded a Masters in International Relations from the University of Chicago. She also holds a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA) from Cambridge University.

In 2000, Beall and her husband moved to Germany when her son was 7 months old, and her daughter was born while living there. Both of the Beall children started German kindergarten at three years of age with only minimal German language skills. In spite of that, they did not skip a beat in German kindergarten or elementary school and were both fluent in German and English when they returned to the United States in 2008. The Beall family resides in Mount Pleasant and opened Bridges Language School last year.

"I am passionate about offering children the opportunity to learn foreign languages. I know from personal experience how easy it is for a child to learn a foreign language and how hard it is for an adult to learn the same language," stated Beall. "I have based the Spanish language preschool program at Daniel Island Academy on my experiences with my own children while living in Germany."

The Daniel Island Academy Spanish language program, titled **Expresate** (Express Yourself) will be offered starting with the 2009-10 school year, and taught as an immersion program where children will absorb the language in many different forms in a relaxed, no stress way. Through play, games, stories, songs, and arts & crafts, children will be introduced to a whole new world. At this

young age, hearing ability is incredible and mimicking the language is a crucial foundational step, therefore, the classes will be taught by a native speaker.

As with most things, it is easier for a child to learn a foreign language than an adult. Children have a natural curiosity about learning, have the ability to mimic closely the native intonation of a new language, and are open and accepting of people who speak other languages and come from other cultures. Studies have shown repeatedly that foreign language learning increases critical thinking skills, creativity, and flexibility of mind in young children.

“We are very proud to have Mary Beall and Bridges Language School as our partner in offering this academic enhancement to our students,” stated Kerry Nowosielski, Director, Daniel Island Academy. “It is our mission to provide the finest early childhood education, and language development is one of the most crucial components for young children to gain early reading and communications skills.”

Daniel Island Academy is an early childhood education center offering full time, part time, mother’s morning out, and enrichment programs for children aged 1 through 6 years. For more information on Expressate or other programs offered, please visit the school’s website at [www.danielislandacademy.com](http://www.danielislandacademy.com) or call the front desk at 971.5961. Private tours may be scheduled upon request.

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Contact: Kathy Boles Beard  
Daniel Island Academy  
843.743.5555 (cell)