Why learn French?

I am often asked why we teach French at Infant Jesus School. There are a number of valid reasons, I feel. First of all this school was founded by the Sisters of Holy Cross in 1909 to serve the children of the French-Canadian immigrants to the Nashua area. In those days, most of the school subjects were taught in French by the good sisters. Most of the children went home to parents and other relatives who spoke only French in the house. It was a necessary part of life. These loyal families were trying very hard to maintain their heritage in this English world. As the years evolved, the French being taught at school was less and less. Soon, the only time French was used was when relatives came to visit and during one class period per day. In 2008 a foreign language was reintroduced to the curriculum at Infant Jesus. At the time, it was Spanish. A few years later it was decided that we should honor the heritage of our school and restore French to the classroom. This made sense since globally speaking, French is more popular. Did you know that French is one of or is the official language in as many as 25 countries around the world? Did you know that French is the official language of the International Olympic Committee? Wherever the Olympics are held, everything is announced in three languages: the language of the host country, English and French. Students who study a foreign language also have a much easier time with English. Test scores improve as do employment prospects.