

Program Objectives and Benefits

Improved Academic Performance

Immersion students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and Math, administered in English.

Second Language Skills

Students will achieve high language proficiency in the immersion language. Students learn to read and write academically and socially in both English and Spanish.

Enhanced Cognitive Skills

Language Immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills as well as enhanced understanding of their primary language.

Increased Cultural Sensitivity

Language Immersion students are more aware of and show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people.

Long Term Benefits

Language Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset.



For more information, please contact:

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Dual-Language
Immersion
Elementary
Education
Program

Frequently
Asked
Questions

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Dual Language Immersion and how does it work?

A: Dual Immersion programs bring together native speakers in two different languages where each is immersed in a new or “target” language. Instruction is carefully designed and conducted in both languages. As a result both groups of students have the opportunity to become literate and fluent in both languages.

Q: What is a Two-way 50/50 model?

A: There are different models for dual immersion programs. A two-way (bilingual) model uses a balance of two languages, in this case, native English speakers and native Spanish speakers. 50/50 refers to the percentage of the curriculum taught in Spanish and English, in this case, half the day will be only taught in Spanish, the other half only in English.



Q: How do Spanish-speakers specifically benefit from this program?

A: Spanish-speakers have the chance learn academically in their native language. They can maintain their first language while learning a second as young students, when language acquisition is most effective.

Q: How do English-speakers specifically benefit from this program?

A: English-speakers have the chance to acquire a new language in the early years when the brain is most receptive to new language acquisition. Most become highly proficient in the second language, typically far better than those who begin to learn a new language later in life. English-speakers also gain socially by making friendships across cultural, ethnic, and linguistic boundaries.

Q: Are dual immersion students integrated with other programs at school?

A: Yes. Except for the fact that half of their instruction is given in Spanish by one teacher and the other half by an English-speaking teacher, their content and recesses and specialists are exactly the same as their peers.

Q: What is the criteria for students to be in a dual immersion program?

A: Parent choice. Because this program relies so heavily on parent support, it is imperative that parents know exactly what will be expected of them, and that they are committed to be part of the program through 5th grade.



Q: Does it cost more to implement a dual immersion program?

A: Not typically. After the initial costs of purchasing materials to get the program started, there is no additional cost to the district. This would be the same expense if we were to staff another English-only classroom.

Q: What happens in the classroom?

A: Language is the vehicle for instruction in immersion classrooms. A visitor would not find a class conjugating verbs or memorizing prepared “dialogues.” Rather, one would see children using the language—speaking, reading, writing, adding, subtracting, experimenting—all in the target language, under the guidance of the teacher. The teachers follow the same curricula as the school’s English-only classrooms.

Q: Do I need to speak Spanish to be able to support my English-speaking child, or vice versa?

A: No. But be prepared: when the classroom instruction is being delivered in Spanish and you walk in the room, the teacher will not speak English to you in front of the children. This is what is meant by “immersion.” Students will be in a 100% authentic language environment. Parent communication and homework from the Spanish-speaking teacher will all be in Spanish. Don’t worry, it’ll only be a matter of time before your 5 year old will be able to translate for you.