

Research shows that...

- Participation in an dual immersion program helps to close the achievement gap for all groups of students.
- Students in immersion programs perform as well or better on English standardized tests than those in traditional classrooms.
- Dual Language Immersion (DLI) is more effective for English learners than ESL pullout.
- DLI has the highest native and second language proficiency results.
- A second language is best mastered if it is introduced by age 10.
- Learning a second language enhances one's understanding of his/her native language.
- Second language learning improves cognitive development and ability.
- Students with second language abilities attain higher SAT scores than their monolingual peers.



"I get excited when I see students learning the content while at the same time teaching each other their native language. I am not the only teacher in the classroom. Everyone has something to offer."

-Second Grade Immersion Teacher

For further information...

- Why Immersion?
http://www.carla.umn.edu/immersion/acie/vol4/feb2001_whyimmers.html
- Immersion Frequently Asked Questions
www.cal.org—search for "What Parents Want to Know About Foreign Language Immersion Programs"
- Benefits of Language Learning
<http://www.actfl.org/advocacy/discover-languages-for-parents/cognitive>

2020-2021 Programs

- One-Way Programs for Heritage Spanish Speakers: Diggs-Latham, Easton, Old Town Elementary Schools
- Two-Way Programs for English and Spanish Speakers: Ashley, Smith Farm, Speas Elementary Schools
- Chinese Immersion: Konnoak Elementary School
- Contact Leslie Baldwin, World Languages Program Manager 336-727-2868 x70178
lbaldwin@wsfcs.k12.nc.us
- Contact David Sisk, Title III/LEP Program Director, 336-727-8029 x70158, dtsisk@wsfcs.k12.nc.us

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." - Nelson Mandela

<http://wsfcs.k12.nc.us/globalprograms>



WS/FCS Dual Language Immersion



"I think it's very helpful because you learn about different cultures and a different language ."

-Immersion Student

WS/FCS Dual Language Immersion Programs

The ability to communicate in another language is an increasingly important skill in today's global society. In order to become proficient in another language, it is important to begin learning at an early age. In addition to the benefit of speaking more than one language, foreign language study in elementary school helps students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, increase their knowledge and understanding of English, and improves achievement on standardized tests.

In dual immersion programs students learn to read and write in English as well as the target language, Spanish or Chinese, and learn content such as Math and Science through the use of both languages. Children in the program will complete 5th grade not only with the content knowledge and skills appropriate for their age, but will also be bilingual and able to communicate and learn in another language. Programs are defined as one-way or two-way. Our one-way Spanish programs are designed for heritage or native Spanish speakers. Our two-way Spanish programs are designed for native English and native Spanish speakers. National research and our district data show that students in these programs outperform their monolingual peers and achieve advanced levels of language!

One-Way Spanish

- Diggs-Latham, Easton, Old Town

Two-Way Spanish

- Ashley, Smith Farm, Speas

One-Way Chinese

- Konnoak

"Immersion opens windows for students. Once they start communicating in another language, those windows will never close again."

- Kindergarten Immersion Teacher

"It is so exciting to see my 2nd grader reading in two languages. The immersion program has enriched his educational experience in countless ways."

-Immersion Parent

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Language Immersion?

In immersion programs students learn content through another language. In this way, students learn content and language at the same time, which is the best way for students to become bilingual. The amount of Spanish and English instruction varies based on the grade level, with the greatest amount of Spanish instruction in Kindergarten. Students learn Spanish literacy first, which is easier than English, and then add English to their knowledge of literacy. In our Chinese program, half of the instructional day is in Chinese and half is in English, so students gain literacy skills in Chinese and English from the beginning.

What will my child learn?

The teachers in the program follow the NC Standard Course of Study, therefore children in immersion programs learn all of the content they would in a traditional classroom. By teaching some content through the second language, students not only learn the information, but learn the language as well. In this way, immersion is a two for one deal!



When can my child enter the program?

It is best for students to begin the DLI program in Kindergarten in order to be successful. The skills and content taught in immersion programs build from one year to the next, so it is important that students begin in Kindergarten. By learning Kindergarten Standards in the target language, students are ready to continue doing so in the grades that follow.

Are there requirements to enroll?

There are no special requirements to participate in immersion. It is expected that students who enter the program remain in the program through 5th Grade. A student must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the second language in order to enter the program beyond 1st Grade.

How can my child enroll in an immersion program?



Enrollment in the program is based upon interest and available space. If a student is not residentially assigned to a school with a program, a magnet school application or assignment request must be submitted, depending upon the desired school.

When will my child be bilingual?

Learning a second language is a process and takes time. Students learn to understand and speak before their reading and writing skills fully develop. In the first 2 years, children will be able to understand a great deal more than they are able to express orally. By the end of 5th grade, children will be able to speak, read, and write in both languages comfortably. It is important that once students commit to the program in Kindergarten, they remain in the program through 5th grade in order to fully benefit from the program and become bilingual.

How will my child understand if our family doesn't speak Spanish or Chinese?

Parents do not need to speak the language in order for their children to succeed in the program. Immersion teachers are trained to use visuals, gestures and specialized strategies in order to teach content and help children acquire the language quickly and easily. In addition, the students in the program are able to help each other learn the other's native language. By helping your child with his/her homework and being involved in the classroom, your child may teach you some language!