

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Dual Language Immersion Program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications are open to all students entering first and second grade. However, it may not be a wise choice for children experiencing significant communication delays in their primary language.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Commit to long-term participation in the language immersion program
- Develop an understanding of language immersion education
- Read with your child in English and/or Spanish 20-30 minutes daily
- Encourage the use of Spanish outside of school
- Provide community support and, when possible, volunteer
- Enjoy the challenges; celebrate the results



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are the benefits of the Dual Language Immersion program?

- All students will learn to read, write, listen and speak in both English and Spanish.

- Becoming bilingual opens the door to communication with more people and increases opportunities in the job market.
- Immersion programs are the fastest growing and most effective type of foreign language programs available in schools in the United States.
- Immersion programs help students prepare for the challenges of college.
- College credit will be available through AP testing in high school.
- Research has shown that learning a second language increases higher-level thinking and cognitive development.

### Who is this program designed for?

This program is designed for students that are already bilingual, fluent only in Spanish or those fluent only in English.

### Will the Dual Language Immersion students follow the same curriculum as those in the English only classrooms?

Yes! The Utah Language Arts Common Core for English and Utah Math Common Core are the same. In addition, a Core curriculum for Spanish literacy will be followed.

### When can students be added to the Dual Immersion program?

Students can be added during the first and second grade registration for their grade level. In addition, students who are literate in Spanish (based on a school assessment) can be added at any time. Students who speak English as their primary home language can be added to the program up to 2nd grade. This is always contingent on space available. There will be a waiting list created for each grade level if the classes are full.

# Utah's SPANISH Dual Language Immersion Program



[www.dli.ogdensd.org](http://www.dli.ogdensd.org)

*Offering children the gift  
of a second language*



## WHY LANGUAGE IMMERSION?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of language immersion programs to help students attain high levels of second language proficiency. No other type of instruction, short of living in a second language environment, is as successful. Young children especially thrive in this type of instructional environment. Happily, language immersion is also the least expensive way to deliver second language instruction.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Maximize students' second language proficiency
- Provide a rich academic environment
- Develop students' abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
- Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community

## PROVEN BENEFITS

### Academic/Educational

- Perform at or above their non-immersion peers on standardized tests administered in English.
- Achieve high levels of functional proficiency in the immersion language, i.e. display fluency, confidence, and native-like levels of comprehension in immersion language.

### Cognitive

- Achieve meta-linguistic awareness.
- Achieve higher levels of proficiency when compared with students in non-immersion language programs.
- Attain greater cognitive flexibility and better nonverbal problem-solving abilities.
- Outperform monolinguals in the areas of divergent thinking, pattern recognition, and problem solving.

### Sociocultural

- Allows access to foreign media, literature and art.
- Helps students understand, navigate, and enjoy intercultural difference.
- Leads to respect, positive attitudes and an appreciation of linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Helps students better understand their own culture.

### Economic

- World language abilities are increasingly important to national security, delivery of health care, economic competitiveness, and law enforcement in the United States.
- Future high-level, high-paying jobs will require competence in more than one language.



## WHAT TO EXPECT IN A DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Dual language immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language.

Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English, one Spanish.

Students enjoy the advantage of two caring, qualified teachers. The English-speaking teacher uses half of the instruction day to teach English language arts (reading, writing, grammar and spelling) as well as supporting other subjects of the curriculum (science, social studies, math, etc.)

The Spanish-speaking teacher uses the other half of the day to teach Spanish Literacy (reading, writing, grammar and spelling), math, science, and social studies depending on the grade.

In class, the Spanish teacher speaks only in Spanish and communicates using a range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, drama, pantomime, etc. Children at this age are adept at picking up language in meaningful contexts. After a brief period at the beginning of the year, students too will speak only in Spanish during Spanish class.

You'll be delighted how quickly your child becomes a comfortable and competent Spanish speaker

## WHY SPANISH?

- Spanish opens the doors to many domestic and international career opportunities.

- Sophisticated professions such as those in medicine, international distribution, the oil and gas industry, power generation, luxury goods, aviation and other transportation technologies encompass extensive Spanish-speaking networks.

- Knowledge of the Spanish language is also an asset in the fields of literature, the fine arts, gastronomy, cinema, law, and business. Scores of major international businesses and organizations, as well as American companies, regularly recruit candidates who speak Spanish.

- Students who learn Spanish perform better on standardized tests since more than 50% of modern-day English words trace their origins to Spanish. This means that Spanish has a relatively quick learning curve, which boosts a student's confidence.