

Success in the Dual Language Program

Does your child love learning and have age-appropriate language skills? Do you encourage and support your child to learn, even if you don't understand the subject? If so, your child will find success in Kenosha Unified School District's Dual Language program, acquiring a second language while maintaining and developing their first.

Your child is a good candidate for the program if he or she:

- Is developmentally "on target" in his or her native language;
- Expresses an interest in different people, places, and things;
- Wants to become fluent in Spanish and English;
- Likes words and "word play"

The program is a good fit for families who:

- Value other cultures - people, art, history, language, etc.;
- Support learning and practicing a second language, even when not understood by other

Families choose to participate in Dual Language for many reasons, such as career opportunities, multicultural appreciation, and/or the ease of becoming bilingual at an early age.

Please take time to seriously consider if Dual Language is right for your child and your family. Visit our classrooms, talk with our principals, staff, and parents and above all, ask any questions you may have.

COMMON QUESTIONS PARENTS HAVE ABOUT DUAL LANGUAGE

Q. How will I be able to help my child with homework if I don't know the other language?

A. Parents can usually understand homework as their child learns to read and write in the early elementary years. Teachers often write instructions for parents in their native language, and are always available for questions. As students gain knowledge, it becomes easier for them to translate words

Q. Will my child fall behind in other academic areas?

A. No. Students in the Dual Language program use the same curriculum as their peers in the "regular" classrooms. Studies consistently show that Dual Language graduates are either at the same or higher aptitude level in core curriculum areas than their single language peers. In the early years, some reading and writing skills may take a bit longer to emerge as two languages are developing simultaneously. This may pose a problem if the child exits the program too early, which is one reason a long-term view is promoted.

Q. Does this type of program have a proven track record?

A. Yes. Dual language programs are being instituted across the country because they have proven to be so effective at teaching children a second language. Today, there are more than 300 Dual Language programs nation-wide, with a history that goes back more than forty years. In Kenosha, middle school Dual Language students are

Essential elements of the Dual Language (or Two-Way Immersion) model that distinguish it from other types of bilingual education are:

- Literacy AND content instruction in **both** English and the non-English languages.
- Instruction in the non-English language at least half of the time at all grade levels; instruction in English at least ten percent of the time at all grade levels.
- Integration of non-English and English speakers at least half of the time at all grade levels.

Students learning English build a strong academic and literacy base in their home language (critical for success in the core curriculum) as English speakers acquire near native command of a second language. A balance of both in each classroom provides language modeling and positive interaction between students.

It takes three to four years before proficiency (speaking, reading, writing, comprehension) is expected, so parents are asked to make a long-term commitment. By middle school, students spend

We believe our students respect and appreciate differences when they develop their intellect and character in a multilingual, multi-cultural setting. Not only are there are cognitive advantages to learning another language, but students are better prepared for citizenship in a multicultural nation, and as employees in the global workforce.

Long-time Dual Language parents believe the program is a lifelong gift for their child - whatever their future career or personal goals, their child will have increased opportunities that come only from speaking more than one language well.

"Knowing more than one language is not exceptional - it is the normal condition of existence around the world." - Grant Goodall, Professor of Linguistics University of California - San Diego

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Dual Language at EBSOLA and Bullen Middle

Our K-8 Dual Language program offers your child the *unique* opportunity of **learning to read, write and communicate in two international languages:** English and Spanish. By fifth grade, students acquire fluency, cultural awareness and appreciation for being bilingual. By eighth grade, students are also ready for advanced high school Spanish.

Academic subjects are taught *through* the target language - the language is not the subject itself (except in Language Arts). Experienced staff and additional creative arts instruction in the new EBSOLA facility further enhance your child's education.

Dual Language is proven the most successful method of second language instruction for children. Studies show that students who start in Kindergarten or First Grade and stay for several years