

Spanish Language Immersion at Ranch Creek Elementary School

In August, 2010, Ranch Creek Elementary School began offering a Spanish Language Immersion program. This educational option is available for 1st through 5th graders. One classroom at each grade level provides a Spanish language immersion environment taught by a highly qualified bilingual teacher who is trained in language immersion education. (The other classrooms participate in rigorous Spanish language instruction on a regularly scheduled rotation, at least once weekly.)

Purpose and model

We believe this educational option aligns completely with our Ranch Creek Mission Statement, with the IB PYP, and with the IB Mission Statement.

The purpose is to provide a component of education that is one of the most important areas of learning we can offer students in the 21st century.

The model for 1st and 2nd Grade classes is Nearly Full Immersion, with approximately 88% of daily instruction provided in Spanish. The remaining 12% represents the amount of time spent in music, art, English writing, counseling guidance, and P. E. classes.

The model for 3rd Grade is Partial Immersion, with approximately 75% of daily instruction provided in Spanish. The remaining 25% includes English Language Arts in the classroom, and music, art, counseling guidance and P. E.

The model for the 4th and 5th Grade classes is Partial Immersion, with approximately 50% of daily instruction provided in Spanish, including explicit instruction in Spanish language arts.

All grade level teachers continue to function as a team. The three or four teachers at each grade level plan together and design their lessons together; the six IB Units of Inquiry are developed and taught by the entire team.

We ask that parents make a commitment that their child will remain in the program for the entire school year, and that all participating parents maintain open lines of communication with the school.

Application Procedure

For the 1st Grade class:

Submit an Application Form by Friday, February 9. A team of school personnel, including the kindergarten team, will review each application and determine eligibility for the program. The program is open to all students. However, it may be recommended that some students not participate in the program. Children with developmental delays in acquisition of the English language or delays in reading skill achievement may be further hindered in their development by working in two languages. Students who have not established a strong pattern of attendance will struggle to learn the target language. The parents of children in these circumstances may be advised that their child should not participate in Spanish Immersion education.

If there are more requests for the Spanish Language Immersion program than there is space, participants will be chosen by lottery. Siblings of current Immersion students at Ranch Creek will be granted priority and placed before the lottery.

For other grades:

Inform the Principal that you are interested in placing your child in the Immersion classroom. Enrollment is continuously open. However, due to the progressive nature of the program, all prospective Immersion students must pass an evaluation.

Resources:

CARLA - Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, Univ. of Minn.

ACIE - American Council on Immersion Education, sponsored by CARLA

CCFLT - Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers

Please feel free to stop by, call, or email with your questions, concerns, and thoughts.