

LaGrange SD 102 Dual Language Immersion (DLI) FAQs

What are the goals of the Dual Language Immersion Program?

The goals of the Dual Language Immersion Program are that after seven years in the DLI program students will be able to communicate effectively in both English and Spanish while listening, speaking, reading and writing, perform academically at or above grade level commensurate with their peers, and demonstrate an appreciation of cultural diversity and cross-cultural competence.

Where is the Dual Language Immersion Program located?

The Dual Language Immersion Program is located at Congress Park School.

Can anyone apply, regardless of address?

Currently, students residing within the Congress Park School boundaries may apply. Opportunities for other incoming kindergartners may be available in the future.

What is the criteria for admission into the Dual Language Immersion Program?

The Dual Language Immersion Program is open to all incoming Congress Park School kindergartners. If there is more interest than space, a lottery will determine which students are placed in the program. Due to the nature of a language immersion program, monolingual students will only be admitted at the kindergarten level. Bilingual students will be assessed to determine the best placement for each child.

What if my child is already able to speak in English and Spanish?

Children who have had the opportunity to gain proficiency in English and Spanish prior to kindergarten will thrive in the Dual Language Immersion Program. Their skills in both languages will be developed to help them achieve high levels of academic proficiency.

Does it matter that no one at home speaks Spanish?

No. It is important to encourage high levels of language development in the home language. Read to your child daily, talk to your child and encourage them to talk to you. Research indicates that strong language skills in the native language transfer to new languages.

How will my child understand if he/she does not speak Spanish?

Teachers in the Dual Language Immersion Program are trained to make instruction meaningful through the use of visuals, objects, gestures, and specialized instructional strategies. The students also help each other.

Am I expected to help my child with homework in Spanish?

Teachers provide assignments on which students can work independently. Parents who do not speak Spanish can support their children in a variety of ways including using teacher-provided resources, daily engaging children about what they are learning and providing bilingual resources and dictionaries. Parents are also encouraged to read in English daily at home with their child to continue home language and literacy skill development. These skills will transfer to their new language.

What content is taught in Spanish and which is taught in English?

Students will study Math and Spanish Language Arts in Spanish. English Language Arts and specials will be in English. Science and Social Studies will be taught in both languages.

Will my child fall behind in basic skills because they are learning in English only half of the day?

No, national studies have shown that children in dual language programs perform as well or better than their respective peers on achievement tests in math, reading and writing.

Will my child have the same classmates every year?

Your child will be with essentially the same group of classmates from kindergarten through sixth grade. However, to prevent social isolation of dual language immersion students, each dual language class partners with at least one general education class for collaborative academic projects, recess and field trips.

How can I find out more about the Dual Language Immersion Program?

Additional information and registration deadlines will be posted on the district website. Join us at Congress Park School for one of our informational sessions in April.

April 12th at 4:40pm - Educational Specialist Olivia Mulcahy will discuss the benefits of Dual Language. (This session will be presented in English and Spanish.)

April 18th at 10:00am or 6:30pm - Principal Terry Dutton will discuss the specifics of program implementation at Congress Park School.