

Welcome to the East Elementary Dual Immersion Program

- Enclosed you will find:
 - Pertinent information designed to help you decide if this program is right for your child.
 - Application Form and due dates.

East Elementary School
Dual Immersion Program – Application 2014-15
Due Date: February 21st by 4:00 PM

Student Name: _____

LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE

Date of Birth: (MM/DD/YY) _____ Sex M F Grade (2013-14): _____

Student's Primary Language: _____

Language spoken in the home: _____

Other language(s) spoken by the student: _____

Boundary School: _____

**Note: If your child does not live in East Elementary boundaries, you must fill out an open enrollment form and submit it to the Iron County School District by the 3rd Friday of February at 4:00 PM.*

Parent/Guardian Names:

Mother: _____

LAST, FIRST

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Father: _____

LAST, FIRST

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP

I have read and agree to the "Conditions for Dual Immersion Placement" (see page 2).

Parent signature: _____

Conditions for Dual Immersion Placement

1. In the event that there are too many students enrolled in the program, a lottery will be held to determine which students will be in the program.
2. If open enrollment is approved and the child is selected to attend the dual immersion program, transportation must be provided by the parent.
3. Students will be expected to continue in the program through fifth grade unless a team decision is made that it is in the best interest of the student to have a change in placement. Research indicates that an immersion program is most effective when students remain in the program for a sustained period of time. Please be aware that during the first half of the first year in the program, some students may feel frustrated. With support and encouragement, students are less and less frustrated as they begin to excel in both languages.

Application Process

A parent information meeting will be held **February ~~2~~¹³ at 5:30 PM** at East Elementary.

1. If out of East Elementary boundaries, please submit an *Open Enrollment Form* to the Iron County School District Office (2077 W. Royal Hunte Dr.) **by the 3rd Friday in February**. In addition, please submit an *Open Enrollment Form* for each sibling you would like to enroll in a traditional class at East Elementary.

2. Submit the following forms to the school **no later than February 21 at 4:00 PM**.

a. *East Elementary Dual Immersion Program Application*. (Available - Main office/school Web Site).

b. If out of boundaries, the *Open Enrollment Form* (Available - Main office/school Web Site).

For questions, please feel free to contact the office at 435-586-2840.

Immersion Model

Why Immersion?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of 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.

Proven Benefits

Second Language Skills

Students achieve high proficiency in the immersion language.

Improved Performance on Standardized Tests

Immersion students perform as well as, or better than, non-immersion students on standardized tests in English and math when administered in English.

Enhanced Cognitive Skills

Immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills, as well as, an enhanced understanding of their primary language.

Increased Cultural Sensitivity

Immersion students are more aware of and show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people.

Long Term Benefits

Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset.

Program Objectives

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

What to Expect In a Dual Immersion Program

Dual 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 and 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, and spelling) as well as other elements of the curriculum (science, social studies, math, etc.)

The Spanish-speaking teacher uses the other half of the day to teach Spanish Literacy, Math, and portions of the social studies, science, art, music, P.E. and health topics from the grade—appropriate level of the Utah State Core Curriculum.

In class, the Spanish teacher speaks only in Spanish and communicates using a range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, pantomime, drama, 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, 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.

Who Can Participate?

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

Parents Responsibilities

- Commit to long-term participation in the immersion program.
- Develop an understanding of immersion education.
- Read with your child in English 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.

How to Enroll My Child

Parents who wish to have their child enrolled in this program will need to fill out the enrollment form which will be sent home with each Kindergarten student. Forms will also be available in the office, as well as, on the school's website.

Utah's Spanish Dual Immersion Programs 2011-2012. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah State Office of Education, 2011. Retrieved from <http://utahspanishdualimmersion.org/>