What are the benefits to being bilingual?

Native Spanish speakers will achieve at the same or higher levels in English compared to their peers enrolled in other programs. Native Spanish speakers will have an increased sense of pride and self esteem:

- In school they are models of proficiency in Spanish.
- At home students develop very positive attitudes about their heritage and continue to communicate with family.

Native English Speakers will achieve at the same or higher levels in English compared to their English-only speaking peers in English-only classrooms.

Students will . . .

- Develop positive attitudes about students of other language and cultural backgrounds.
- Develop very positive attitudes about their heritage, language, and cultural background.

All students will have greater opportunities available in a global economy if they are proficient in more than one language.

Sunnycrest Dual Language
A Dual Language 50/50 Model

Classrooms at each grade-level:

- One English: Dual Language Partner
- One Spanish: Dual Language Partner
- One or More English Only classrooms

Increased focus on strategies like GLAD and culturally responsive teaching to support needs of all language learners.
What is Dual Language?

Dual language education is the best educational model to produce graduates who can not only speak in two languages, but read and write at or above grade level in both.

Families must choose to be in the program.

Students need the full support of their families to succeed in such a challenging program. Their family does NOT have to be bilingual in order for the student to succeed and become fully bilingual.

Languages are not taught as in a Spanish or French class. Instead students are immersed in each language for half of the day as they study the same subjects as all students throughout the District.

The teacher does not translate for the students. Children have a natural language-learning capacity and using a second language to learn interesting things at school is a natural way to pick up that language. When a teacher translates for students, they often “tune out” the second language, waiting for the easier translation and never learn the second language well.

Why Dual Language?

It works! Dual language program graduates generally achieve at or above grade level in two languages. These incredible results aren’t seen until several years are spent in the program. It takes most people 5-7 years to become “fully fluent” in a second language. The fact that children often pick up “playground” or social language quickly has led to the false belief that it only takes about a year to become fluent in another language. What we want and expect of our dual language students is the ability to not just speak informally, but read, write, and study at high levels of thinking in both their languages. This is why we will expect a long-term commitment from our families.

Dual Language education has other names, including Bilingual Immersion. It is not just another name for bilingual education, but is a specific, successful model of bilingual education.

Goals and Expectations

All students will…

- Be at or above grade level
- Develop high levels of proficiency in their first language (L1)
- Develop high levels of proficiency in a second language (L2)
- Demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors

Non-negotiable components:

- Up to 50% of the daily instruction will be in the “target” language
- Strict separation of languages for instruction (no translation)
- K-12 grade commitment: Minimum K-5 if the District does not commit to a secondary program