PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Parents support students in reaching goals by supporting daily attendance, volunteering, and participating in the decision-making process as active members in the parent advisory committee.

Parents are recommended to enroll their child in the Dual Language Immersion Program, beginning with Kindergarten and continuing throughout their attendance at Dowell Elementary School.

About Us

Dowell Elementary is one of the first schools in Cobb County to offer a Dual Language Program. This program offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners while their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language.

Dual Language Immersion Program

PROGRAM GOALS

Prepare students for a culturally diverse world

The goal is that by fifth grade students will be bilingual and biliterate, developing linguistic competence in both languages throughout the program.

Bilingualism and Biliteracy enhance future marketability.

Why 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 there is a relatively quick learning curve which will boost student confidence.

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WHAT IS DLI?

Dual Language Immersion is a program in which your child will be immersed half of the day completely in English and half of the day completely in Spanish by both the respective teacher and the child when they are in that classroom.

Immersion is a tool in which the student is completely surrounded by the language. The language is a tool to teach grade level content through the target language, instead of teaching language in isolation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMMERSION IS....</th>
<th>IMMERSION ISN’T....</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A lifelong skill</td>
<td>• Conjugations and memorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dedication, commitment &amp; involvement</td>
<td>• Over at school – it does not end at dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A tool to promote academic language and growth</td>
<td>• Delaying any kind of language learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A team effort involving the student, teacher and parents</td>
<td>• The sole responsibility of the student</td>
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Why language immersion?

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 of English and Math administered in English.

Enhanced Cognitive Skills:

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

Increased Cultural Sensitivity:

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

Long Term Benefits:

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

IS DLI IDEAL FOR MY CHILD?

Starting from Kindergarten through fifth grade, you and your child will make a commitment to this program. This is a rigorous program that requires parental involvement.

Students from any background and who speak any language may apply to participate in this program.

The expectations for your child would require him/her to begin to show that:

• They can follow multi-step directions
• They can work towards independence
• They can be flexible in a fast-paced environment

Students who are most successful in this program have a very strong first language foundation, no matter what the language may be.

If you feel that your child can rise to the challenge, please inquire further during registration regarding an upcoming detailed Program Overview.

Visit: [http://site.ccsdlanguages.org](http://site.ccsdlanguages.org) for more information (click on tab for Dual Languages)