

# William C. Lewis Dual Language Elementary

## [Language Requirement for Grades 2-5]



### Overview

At Lewis Dual Language Elementary, students learn through a language immersion model that teaches literacy and academic content in two languages [50/50, English and Spanish]. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are permitted to begin as new students at Lewis without any prior Spanish language background. However, for Choice and feeder-pattern students entering Lewis in grades 2-5, a Spanish-language assessment is required to ensure that the student could successfully join their grade-level peers in the program learning mathematics and other academic content *in* Spanish.

To assess students' ability to read, write, listen, and speak in Spanish [for grades 2-5], an assessment is given at Lewis to determine if the student has the Spanish language skills necessary to be successful entering the immersion program at these upper grades.

### Considerations for The Spanish Assessment

If your student is in grades 2-5 and will be assessed in Spanish, please consider the following before talking with your student about the assessment. As you know your child the best, we ask that you consider the most appropriate way to explain the assessment to them, being careful in the language that you use. For example -- for some students, knowing that they are taking a "test" and that their performance on the test will determine if they attend Lewis or not, could heighten their anxiety and compromise their performance on the assessment. If your student falls into this category, consider the following explanation: "There are different programs offered for students and they want to learn which program would be the best fit for you. For the Spanish immersion programs, there is a short assessment given to get a sense for your knowledge of Spanish. It is nothing to worry about and all you need to do is your best."

For other students, knowing they are taking a "test" and that their performance on it will determine if they begin at Lewis could motivate them to do their best work. Again, you know your child the best and we trust you will make the right choice for how to prepare your child.

### Format for the Spanish Assessment

The Spanish assessment is currently administered in a one-on-one format with one of the Lewis staff members. Students are assessed on their ability to read, write, listen, and speak in Spanish. If it is determined that your student in grades 2-5 does not have a sufficient level of Spanish proficiency at the time of registration, they will not be permitted to begin at Lewis.

New students in grades 2-5 not meeting the language requirement will be assigned to Shortlidge Elementary School for grade 2 or Warner Elementary School for grades 3-5 or you may file a choice application to attend another elementary school.

For questions about Choice, please visit the website at [www.redclayschools.com/Page/546](http://www.redclayschools.com/Page/546) or call (302)-552-3789.