

William C. Lewis Dual Language Elementary School **Dual Immersion World Language Program**

WHY:

- Dual immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language.
- Dual immersion programs help students attain high levels of second language proficiency more than any other type of instruction, short of living in a second language environment.
- Spanish opens the door to many domestic and international career opportunities.
- Knowledge of the Spanish language is also an asset in the fields of literature, the 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.

Proven Benefits:

- Second Language Skills
- Improved Performance on Standardized Tests
- Enhanced Cognitive Skills
- Increased Cultural Sensitivity
- Long Term Career and Community Benefits

Program Objectives:

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

The Student Experience:

- Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English and one Spanish.
- Students in Kindergarten and First Grade will work with two teachers:
 - The English-speaking teacher uses half of the instructional day to teach English Language Arts and Social Studies.
 - The Spanish-speaking teacher uses half of the instructional day to teach Math, Science, and Spanish Literacy.
- Students in Second Grade through Fifth Grade will work with two teachers:
 - The English-speaking teacher uses half of the instructional day to teach English Language Arts and Math.
 - The Spanish-speaking teacher uses half of the instructional day to teach Science, Social Studies, and Spanish Literacy.
- All Students will participate in related arts experiences utilizing the Spanish Language.

Parent 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