

Questions & Answers

Q: Does the teacher in a dual language classroom translate for the students?

A: No, the teachers maintain instruction in one language for the entire lesson. Peer support and communicative interactions are frequently encouraged. The goal is to have 50% of the instructional time in Spanish and 50% in English. Students receive instruction in both languages for reading and language arts skills.

Q: How soon can I expect to see progress in my child's second language learning?

A: If your child has little or no exposure to the second language when they begin the program, they will first go through a silent period. During this time, the student will be unable to respond orally in the second language and may or may not feel overwhelmed. It is important at this time that the child is encouraged to speak in whatever language they feel comfortable. Slowly, as they increase their comprehension, they will feel more comfortable to respond in their second language. Research shows that it takes from 3 – 7 years to develop native-like proficiency in a second language.

Q: Whom do I contact if I'd like my child to participate in next year's program?

A: Parents need to complete the on-line application with the OCPS School Choice office. The selection is determined by a lottery system. Once a student is selected, he/she will complete language and school readiness assessments. Previous year progress will be reviewed, if available, to determine if the Dual Language is the best program for the individual student

Program Goals

- To create a classroom environment that promotes linguistic and cultural equality and fosters positive attitudes toward others
- To develop interpersonal, academic content, and linguistic competence in English and Spanish
- To develop and use higher level cognitive skills in Spanish and English
- To become a bilingual, bi-literate, and bicultural global citizen



CONTACT

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HUNTER'S CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dual Language Enrichment



Magnet Program

H C E S

Overview & Philosophy

OVERVIEW

The Two-Way Developmental Bilingual Education Program (Dual Language) integrates English native speakers and Spanish native speakers in the same classroom to promote the development of academic literacy and language proficiency in both languages.

PHILOSOPHY

Both language groups are integrated for all content instruction in an environment which promotes language and social equality while supporting full bilingual proficiency for both native and non-native speakers of English. Our Dual Language Enrichment Program strives to cultivate understanding and appreciation of other cultures, inspire self-esteem, and strengthen positive attitudes among students, their families, and the community. Careful attention is paid to the development of bilingualism, bi-literacy, and academic excellence. Students are expected to achieve academically at or above grade level in all content areas in both languages.

WHAT DOES THE DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM OFFER?

- Students develop fluency in a second language while continuing to build the home language.
- Students learn from one another and practice real-life communication skills.
- Students are exposed to research based teaching/learning practices such as cooperative learning, Theme units, project-based instruction, performance-based learning, and DBQ (Document Based Questions).
- Students become life-long learners.

RESEARCH ON SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

- Positive effect on intellectual growth
- Positive effect on self-esteem
- Increased thinking flexibility
- Increased sensitivity and appreciation for other languages and cultures
- Increased job opportunities
- Positive impact on global economy
- Learning more than one language is the routine in other countries

Why Dual Language?

Hunter's Creek Elementary Dual Language Program takes advantage of the culturally and linguistically diverse population in our community. Instead of separating students according to their primary language, they are placed together to learn from one another about their language and culture. Many different studies show that the best way to learn a second language is to use the new language in real-life, everyday situations. Our goal is to produce bilingual, bi-literate students who will have an academic, social, and economic advantage in our multicultural world.

