

Princeton Public School's Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program

The Princeton Public Schools Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program (Spanish/English) has been a successful program at Community Park School since 2015. This district program is now open to all Princeton Public School students entering Kindergarten or First Grade.

Q&A

Will there be changes to the District Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program in 2019-2020?

Yes! For the 2019-2020 school year, Princeton Public Schools will offer transportation to families who want to participate in the Dual Language Immersion program at Community Park. We welcome all district students to our program.

Previously, families who wanted their child(ren) to attend the program were responsible for their own transportation if they lived in the Littlebrook, Riverside, or Johnson Park neighborhoods. Starting in September, we will be able to provide bus transportation for every child who wants to come to Community Park for the immersion program and who lives beyond walking distance.

Who can apply to the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program at Community Park?

Any PPS student who is scheduled to start Kindergarten or Grade 1 in September 2019 can apply. Students scheduled to start Kindergarten or first grade at LB, JP, or RS are now eligible to apply to the district's Spanish-language immersion program at Community Park.

How do I apply?

If you are new to Princeton Public Schools, you will need to begin the registration process on our website. Click Here: [Registration/Enrollment - Princeton Public Schools](#)

To register your child in the Princeton Public School District, you will need to complete our online registration forms. If you do not have access to a computer, please visit your child's home school or the Princeton Public Library to access the online registration.

How can I learn more about DLI?

We are offering information sessions that explain how the DLI program works on **Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 PM and Wednesday, February 27th at 8:45 AM at Community Park School**. Families applying to the immersion program must attend one information session.

I just moved to the district and I missed the mandatory information sessions. Can I still apply?

We typically offer a make-up information session for families who have not been able to attend the February sessions. Please contact Christine Tollefsen at Community Park for details if you have not attended a mandatory information session. ChristineTollefsen@princetonk12.org

What is the final deadline to apply?

All families who are applying need to submit the application/parent contract to Community Park School by March 8, 2019. If you move to the district after that date, please contact Christine Tollefsen. For more information, contact: ChristineTollefsen@princetonk12.org

What is Dual Language Immersion?

Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade spend 50 percent of their day learning core content in Spanish and 50 percent learning in English. Each student has two main teachers, one for English instruction and one for Spanish. The program is open to students who are fluent in Spanish and/or English as well as to students who are fluent in neither English nor Spanish. For instance, if Japanese is your native language, you can still apply to the immersion program.

Which elementary school would my child attend to participate in the DLI program?

This program is only offered at Community Park. Since its inception in 2015, Princeton Public Schools expanded this Community Park program to include grades Kindergarten through fifth grade and was able to include Kindergarten students from the other district elementary school sending areas for the 2018-2019 school year. In 2019-2020, students from the other elementary schools will be enrolled in both the Kindergarten and first grade DLI classes.

I live in the Community Park neighborhood and I do not want my child to participate in the DLI program. Will my child attend Community Park?

In 2018, Community Park did not offer a traditional English-only class for Kindergarten students. In 2019, it is anticipated that Kindergarten and Grade 1 will not have a traditional class. CP families choosing a traditional class for their child will attend one of the other district elementary schools with transportation provided.

How many sections of immersion classes are offered at Community Park?

Currently, there are four sections of DLI Kindergarten; two sections in first grade; two in second grade; two in third grade and two in fourth grade. As the program expands, we anticipate we will have four sections of immersion in Kindergarten, first and second grade and three sections in grades 3, 4, and 5. The number of sections is based on enrollment, but particularly for our youngest students, smaller class size is preferable.

Where do I find application and registration forms for Community Park's DLI program?

All forms are available on our website and paper copies will be provided at the information sessions.

What if too many students apply for a spot in the DLI program?

If there is a surplus of applicants, we will hold a lottery. Students living in the Community Park neighborhood get priority in this instance. If necessary, the lottery for the 2019-2020 school year will be held on March 14, 2019.

Can my child enter the immersion program in second, third, fourth, or fifth grades?

A student fluent in Spanish and English who has participated in an immersion program in another district and is new to Princeton can apply to the Community Park immersion program at any grade. Students will be assessed to determine if the program is a match for them. However, in general, we accept students anytime during the Kindergarten year and in the fall only of first grade.

Will Community Park become an immersion-only school?

This is a distinct possibility that will be determined in part by district enrollment and interest in the DLI program.

Will my student be able to continue Spanish-language education in middle school?

Provisions for the first-ever graduating immersion class from Community Park who will be moving up to John Witherspoon are ongoing. Students completing a DLI elementary experience will be eligible for higher-level Spanish language classes and will receive instruction in at least one of their content subjects in Spanish at the middle school.