



Common Misconceptions Regarding Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Programs

Myth	Fact
Being in an immersion program will negatively affect children’s progress in reading and writing in the English language.	There is a large body of research that shows that children in immersion programs do as well or better in English reading and writing than do children who spend their entire school day in English.
Immersion is only for gifted and talented children.	While immersion may not be a good fit for every child, long experience across the country and internationally has proven that it is appropriate for children of almost all abilities .
Children who learn regular content such as math and science in another language will have lower scores on standardized tests when compared with students in English-only classes.	Research nationally has consistently shown that children in immersion programs perform as well or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests in all areas. It also suggests that they develop better reasoning and thinking skills.
Parents will be left out of their children’s education because they won’t know the immersion language their children are learning.	While it is true that children will quickly know much more in the immersion language, every effort is made to keep parents involved and able to help their children at home. For example, all homework has an English explanation for parents, including ideas and suggestions for how they can help their children. The implementation of our program will begin in Transitional Kindergarten in the first year and would expand each year until fully implemented in grades TK- 12. Additionally, a new group of TK students would begin each year. The program encourages participation by English- and target language-speaking students. Admission into the program will be based on a lottery system and requires a long-term commitment. Programming would be developed in the secondary schools to support students who complete the K-5 program.

For more information, please visit our website at www.santapaulaunified.org or call the Educational Services Department at 805-933-8804.