

What is Two-Way Immersion?

Two-Way Immersion education is the best educational model to produce graduates who can listen, speak, read, and write in two languages. but by 12th grade, student typically score at or above grade level in both Spanish and English.

How do you teach Spanish and English?

In a TWI program, students are immersed in the languages during the day as they study the same subjects as all students at the school

Do students fall behind if they're not already bilingual?

Not at all! Our highly-trained teachers use a variety of methods called 'sheltering techniques' to help children understand the curriculum while working in their second language. All of our families are expected to support their child's academic success in TWI by supporting their student with the language they have and use at home. Students typically score lower than their peers for the first few years in the program, but meet and then exceed their monolingual peers.

A 90/10 Immersion Program

At Jewett Elementary School, our Two-Way Spanish Immersion program is called a "90/10" program. This means that, in kindergarten, 90% of the day is spent in Spanish and 10% in English. At

each subsequent grade level the percentage of English increases by 10% until students spend half their academic day in English and half in Spanish during the fourth through 8th grades. In all TWI classrooms, the language learning is going two ways: Spanish speakers are learning English and their subject areas, and English speakers are learning

Spanish and their subject areas. Because of the two-way learning model, it is of paramount importance that we balance the number of native speakers of each language as closely as possible so students can best partner for learning.

Contact Us

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Two-Way Spanish Immersion Program

A K-12 Magnet Program
hosted at:

Jewett Elementary School
Hanby Middle School &
Crater Renaissance Academy

How does it work?

Two-Way Immersion takes advantage of children's natural language learning abilities and, in a TWI classroom, the teacher is not the only model for each language. The students are also models for each other. Each student spends part of their day learning through their native language and being a language model for other students, and half their day learning through their second language and getting help from other students as they learn.

The incredible benefits of dual language are not seen for several years and it is normal for students to be keen observers at the beginning of their language acquisition journey - they're absorbing the language but can't speak it themselves....yet!



What does this mean for families?

At Jewett, we expect all students, families and teachers to work together to help the student be successful at school. Students in the TWI program face extra challenges. Parents say that the first couple of years can be the most difficult but that staying in the program was the best thing they could have done for their child.

[This is what we ask of families:](#)

Be serious about the long-term commitment, and be patient. The full benefits of a dual language education blossom after 4-5 years, and keep growing.

Support your child in this great challenge! As you know, you are your child's greatest teacher and role model. As they work their hardest to learn in two languages, they need to know that their bilingualism and school achievement are important to you.

Participate in our community! Come to our events, volunteer in our classrooms or on our field trips, do some language learning yourself and attend local cultural events.



How long does it take?

It takes most people 5-7 years to become fully fluent in a second language, and children are no different. The fact that children often pick up 'playground' or social language quickly has led to the false belief that it only takes about a year to become fluent in another language. What we want and expect of our Two-Way Immersion students is the ability to not just speak informally, but to read, write and study at high levels in both their languages. This is what takes 5-7 years, and is why we require a long-term commitment from our families.