

Yorkville 115 Dual Language Program



CULTIVATE LEARNERS WHO APPLY SKILLS IN TWO LANGUAGES
WITH MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCES TO ENRICH SOCIETY

What is the Dual Language Program?

The Dual Language Program is also known as a Two-Way Immersion Program. It is a long-term bilingual and bicultural educational approach to promote biliteracy for students with a language other than English as well as for students who desire to learn a second language. It is composed of a balanced number of students from two main language groups, English and Spanish. Both languages are used for instruction with the goal of becoming bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. The program is also open to students from families who speak a language other than English or Spanish.

Curriculum

The Yorkville Community Unit School District 115 has adopted a model where the percentage of instruction in Spanish begins at 80% and will gradually decrease while the percentage of instruction in English will increase throughout the grade levels (See Language Allocation chart). All students will receive literacy in Spanish and English. This does not imply equal time of literacy in each language, however there is deliberate, planned oral language development and literacy instruction in both languages. This 80/20 model allows for all students to build a solid foundation in Spanish and English in order to promote stronger bilingualism. English and Spanish literacy is taught through the bilingual district resource. Then, key vocabulary terms and concepts are bridged into the other language through a strategy called cross-linguistic transfer. Also, they will extend and go deeper into the same topic with different literacy standards in the other language. The teachers and students look at similarities and differences between both languages.

Program Goals

The goal is to prepare students for the future with abilities to listen, speak, read, and write in both English and Spanish, as well as develop an appreciation for different cultures. The Dual Language Program provides children with the opportunity to learn two languages, while maintaining high academic standards.

Seal of Biliteracy

Dual language students have an opportunity to earn The Illinois Seal of Biliteracy when they enter high school. Students who demonstrate proficiency in English & Spanish language through testing will receive a seal on their diploma as well as a note on their transcript. This honor can be used to distinguish students in college admissions, can be applied for college credits at Illinois public colleges and universities, scholarship opportunities, and the job market.

Benefits

Research shows that students who participate in well-implemented dual language programs perform at or above-grade level on district and state tests, as well as achieve advanced levels of proficiency in two languages (Collier & Thomas, 1997). In addition, graduates from these programs have a head start on language requirements for college and have enhanced employment opportunities.

Language Allocation

Grade	Spanish	English
K	80%	20%
1st	80%	20%
2nd	70%	30%
3rd	60%	40%
4th-6th	50%	50%
7th-8th	English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts Social Studies in Spanish	
High School	Advanced Spanish, Biology, Dual Credit	

Selection Criteria

Admission into the program is based on the balance between English and Spanish speakers in order to accommodate English Learners and follow a Two Way Immersion program

- Students who are identified as English Language Learners whose English proficiency score is 3.5 and below
- Students who are identified as English Language Learners whose scores above 3.5, speak Spanish at home, and demonstrate Spanish oral proficiency
- Students who are screened and found to be proficient in English and Spanish
- English proficient students who currently have siblings participating in the Dual Language Program
- Any other candidates who do not meet the criteria above will enter into a lottery for the remaining spaces

Process for Student selection:

- Attend the Dual Language parent information meeting.
- Complete an application by the stated deadline, April 24. We ask parents and students to commit to the program minimally up through Grade 6.
- The Coordinator for Multilingual Services will review all applications. If there are more English-dominant candidates than available seats, there will be a lottery to select qualifying candidates. If needed, the student may be put on a waiting list.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will my child fall behind if he/she learns two languages?

Research shows that students in a dual language program do as well as or better than students in monolingual English programs on standardized tests administered in English. However, expect to see a delay in these results on standardized tests until the third grade or fourth grade.

I want my child to enter the program but he/she is older.

Students wanting to enter 2nd grade and above need to demonstrate grade level proficiency in Spanish to be considered into the program, including those who transfer from a Dual Language program in another district.

My child speaks a language other than English or Spanish. Can he/she join the program?

Your child can be trilingual. There is success for speakers of other languages in a Spanish-English program.

We speak Spanish at home. Why would I want my child to be in Dual?

Language at home tends to be social by nature. Your child will acquire academic Spanish and will develop more complex language skills.

My child was not chosen in the lottery system. Will my child have a chance to enter into the program?

Your child's name will be placed on a waiting list. You will be called if space is available.

Do Dual Language classrooms have a different curriculum than monolingual classrooms?

Dual Language classes are aligned to the Yorkville 115 monolingual curriculum, with some adjustments when needed to accommodate literacy development in both program languages. By the end of the year, students in Dual Language classrooms and monolingual classrooms will have learned the same content and concepts.

How can my child succeed if we don't speak Spanish?

You can support your child by:

- Reading with them in English
- Expressing joy and praising them when they attempt to read and write in Spanish
- Conveying the importance of bilingualism
- Being actively involved with school activities, dual language program, and the Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC)
- Attending cultural events
- Providing books and other materials in Spanish
- Communicating with your child's teacher

What parents are saying:

"Yo valoro mucho la oportunidad de que mis hijos puedan aprender a leer, escribir y hablar los dos idiomas. Es un privilegio saber los dos idiomas especialmente en el futuro cuando tengan una carrera profesional."

Rocio Camargo

"Having my son in the Y115 Dual Language Program has been the most direct connection for him to experience and appreciate cultural diversity. Additionally, it has afforded him the capability to communicate in a second language that not only exposes him to the history, traditions, and people associated with that language, but also fosters greater cultural awareness, which in turn promotes acceptance and empathy of others. More importantly, his high level of academic achievement through his experience of receiving his instructional learning in two languages."

Theron Garcia

"Yo valoro este programa primero porque somos latinos y quiero que (Mis hijos) sean bilingües y se puedan comunicar en los dos idiomas, hablen, entiendan y sepan leer y escribir en español y se sientan orgullosos de la lengua de sus padres y abuelos."

Guadalupe Muñoz

"The Dual Language program allows our children to learn a second language as they are integrated amongst their native/non-native speaking peers. Learning a second language from a young age has many benefits cognitively, socially, as well as opening up a world of opportunities for the future! We are excited to see their progress in the years to come."

Sara Odenbach

"I like the program because it celebrates multiculturalism and it gives the children the chance to learn two languages which will help them in the future."

Rogelio Muñoz

"Yo aprecio este programa porque brinda una mejor oportunidad a nuestros hijos, quizás ahorita no sea tan notorio pero en un futuro se notará la diferencia. Nuestro idioma y costumbres siguen adelante con el programa bilingüe. Este programa ha logrado que nuestros hijos se interesen más por el idioma y sus ancestros."

Maria Carrillo

Para nuestra familia, es más que sólo ser bilingües, es estar orgullosos de quienes somos y nuestra identidad y herencia.

Paige de la Cruz

"El que mis hijos sean bilingües les abre muchas puertas de trabajo y oportunidades en la vida. Del mismo modo la comunicación entre ellos y nosotros sus padres puede decir que es excelente."

Lily Pérez

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.y115.org/domain/51>

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