



Dual Language Program Handbook

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Dual Language Program Vision and Mission

Vision

The Kyrene Dual Language Program is designed to prepare all students to meet educational and life goals in both English and Spanish in order to make positive contributions to a global society.

Mission

To inspire and engage our diverse community in continuous high academic achievement, personal growth, cultural awareness, high level of proficiency in English and Spanish for every student.

Program Description

The Kyrene Dual Language Program is a preschool through 8th grade program of choice within the Kyrene School District designed for high academic achievement in all content areas. Goals for this program include bilingualism, biliteracy, multi-cultural awareness, and global citizenship. Students attain high levels of proficiency in both English and Spanish while learning grade level academic content.

Instructional Model

Bienvenidos Dual Language Early Learning Center

- Bienvenidos is a Spanish language exploration preschool program offered at Kyrene de los Lagos (Ahwatukee) and Kyrene del Norte (Tempe).
- Provides age-appropriate activities where children reach their full potential cognitively, emotionally, physically, linguistically, and socially.
- Provides age-appropriate activities where students can apply language in its natural environment.
- Fosters an environment where students build an appreciation for cultural diversity.
- Program Options and Tuition available on the Kyrene Preschool page at <https://www.kyrene.org/Page/1365>.

Elementary (50/50 model)

- The entire year Monday thru Friday, students spend 50% of their day immersed in English and 50% of their day immersed in Spanish. Students experience English Language Arts, Social Studies extended learning time, reading support, and math support in English. Students experience Spanish Language Arts, Math, and Science extended learning time in Spanish.
- Instruction is delivered in only one language at a time without translation.
- Most students will experience a two-teacher model. In this model, Teacher A delivers instruction in English and Teacher B in Spanish. Both teachers share two groups of students and students switch classrooms and teachers in the middle of the day.
- Based on enrollment, a one teacher model may be implemented. In this model, the same teacher delivers half of the day of instruction in English and the other half of the day of instruction in Spanish.
- Literacy and academic content are taught daily in both English and Spanish.
- Students participate in the following special area classes weekly: Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and Computers. The special area class offerings are the same as other Kyrene schools.
- Students participate in Social Emotional Learning daily in both English and Spanish.

Middle School

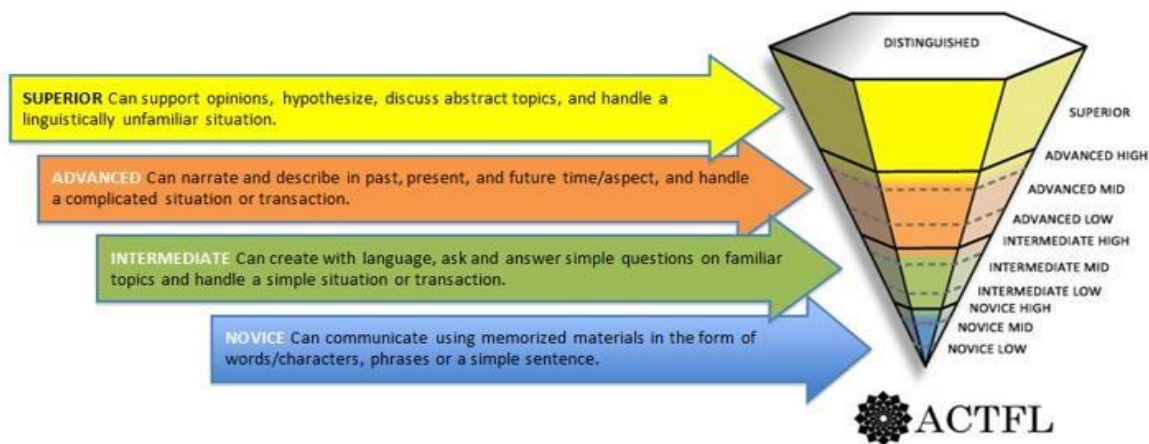
- Middle school (grades 6 through 8) implement a model where students take two classes in Spanish. Students spend between 100 and 120 minutes per day in Spanish instruction. The models are slightly different at Akimel A-al Middle School and Kyrene Middle School.
- At Akimel A-al, students will have a two-hour block for Spanish Language Arts. Students will take Math, Science, Humanities (English Language Arts and Social Studies), and one elective in English.
- Kyrene Middle School is an International Baccalaureate School; students take seven classes each day and all students take a World Language as part of their course of study. Students in grades 6 through 8 take Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies in Spanish. Students take Math, English Language Arts, Science, and their two elective classes in English.

Performance Toward Proficiency Targets and Proficiency Levels

The following are the grade level proficiency targets for students in Kyrene’s Spanish Dual Language Program. The American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) has established descriptors for each level of language or [Proficiency Guidelines](#). There are descriptors for Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

Grade Level	Proficiency Target	Presentational Modes		Interpretive Modes	
		Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
K	Novice Low	N1	N1	N1	N1
1	Novice Mid	N2	N2	N2	N2
2	Novice Mid	N3	N3	N3	N3
3	Novice High-Intermediate Low	N4	N4	N4	N4
4	Intermediate Low	I1	I1	I1	I1
5	Intermediate Low-Mid	I2	I2	I1	I1
6	Intermediate Mid	I3	I3	I2	I2
7	Intermediate Mid	I4	I4	I2	I2
8	Intermediate Mid-High	I5+	I5+	I3	I3

Proficiency levels are based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines and can be used to measure language performance in an instructional setting. The levels of Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced are further subdivided into sub-levels Low, Mid, and High. For more information about what language learners can do with the language at each proficiency level, reference the [ACTFL Can Do Statements](#).



Pyramid image courtesy of ACTFL

Target Language Use

Teacher Target Language Use

- Teachers communicate in the target language at all times to ensure fidelity of the Dual Language instructional model.
- Teachers will communicate in the target language in front of students within the school building.

Student Target Language Use

- Students communicate in the target language according to their level of proficiency within the school building.
- Students are encouraged to communicate in both English and Spanish outside the classroom, thus validating both languages.

Program Information and Enrollment

Standards and Curriculum Resources

The Kyrene Dual Language Program uses the [Arizona Academic Standards](#) and the [World and Native Language Standards](#) for grade level instruction. Curriculum materials for each subject area are adopted by the Kyrene School District Governing Board. For Spanish instruction, we use Listos by Vista Higher Learning, Maravillas by Mc-Graw Hill, Descubre el Español by Santillana, *¡Qué chévere!* by EMC/Carnegie, Historia Universal Grandes Civilizaciones by National Geographic, Gobierno De Estados Unidos Nuestra Democracia by McGraw Hill, and various tradebooks in Spanish.

Assessments

All students participate in District and State assessments according to the Kyrene School District assessment calendar. In addition, students enrolled in the Dual Language program in grades 2 thru 8 participate in the [Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages](#) or AAPPL to measure students' language proficiency levels in Spanish.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued twice a year in Kindergarten and every quarter in grades 1 - 8. Spanish progress is reflected in a section on the elementary report card and in course grades on the middle school report card.

Delivery of Instruction

Teachers will:

- Deliver instruction in their corresponding target language. During the first two weeks of school in kindergarten and 1st grade, teachers in the Spanish classrooms will use English and Spanish to establish classroom expectations and routines. After the first two weeks, instruction will continue only in Spanish.
- In 2nd through 8th grades, instruction is 100% in Spanish all year in Spanish classrooms and courses.
- Deliver instruction using a combination of whole group, small group, or individual instruction.
- Follow instructional minutes for content areas provided by the Kyrene School District.
- Provide academic challenges for all students. Families will be provided with information on extended learning activities that support language acquisition.
- Expect students to demonstrate progress towards their target level in Spanish.
- Conduct formative and summative assessments in both English and Spanish in grades K-8 to measure progress towards content and language standards.
- Collaborate with partner teachers and grade level teams as applicable.
- Attend professional development in and out of the district to keep up to date with the latest research in best teaching and learning practices.

Eligibility and Admission

Families are encouraged attend a Dual Language Family Information meeting prior to enrolling their child in the program. Please contact your school office to find out about dates and times for meetings or to schedule a meeting. Eligibility requirements specific to the Kyrene Dual Language Program are listed below.

- Students entering after the first nine weeks of 1st grade will be administered a Spanish Proficiency Assessment. The assessment is administered by a Spanish teacher to determine a student's eligibility for the program. Students must demonstrate a level of proficiency and readiness commensurate with their grade level peers.
- Students whose primary language is a language other than English and who do not receive a proficient score on the Arizona English Language Learners Assessment (AZELLA) may enroll in the Dual Language Program. Students who are not proficient on AZELLA will receive 1.5 hours of integrated English language instruction within their English classroom and 0.5 hours of targeted English language instruction to meet the Arizona state requirements. Students are reassessed on the AZELLA assessment each year to determine progress made and continuation of English Language supports.

The Kyrene Dual Language Program accepts students who apply to the program regardless of residency. Open enrollment information is available on the [Kyrene Enrollment/Registration page](#). Students may be admitted into the Dual Language Program by:

- Enrolling in Dual Language Kindergarten or enrolling within the first nine weeks of Dual Language 1st grade and maintaining enrollment throughout their K-8 experience, or
- Transferring from another Dual Language Program (documentation needed), or
- Passing the Kyrene Spanish Proficiency Assessment (contact the school office for more information).

Dual Language Program Acknowledgement

Policy and Procedures

The Dual Language Program follows the Kyrene School District Family Handbook policies and procedures such as attendance and tardiness, family involvement, and behavior. The Kyrene School District family handbook is available online at <http://www.kyrene.org/familyhandbook>.

Families and Students

The journey towards bilingualism, biliteracy, and multiculturalism is a long-term commitment. Kyrene is committed to provide a Dual Language experience and an opportunity for your child to reach a high level of proficiency in Spanish while learning grade level academic content. Families and students are expected to read the Dual Language Program handbook and return the *Family Acknowledgement Form* to your child's teacher.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which schools offer the Pre-K-8 Dual Language Program in Kyrene?

- Kyrene de los Lagos is a Dual Language Academy offering dual language in Pre-K-5.
- Kyrene del Norte is a Dual Language Academy offering dual language in Pre-K-5.
- Kyrene Middle School and Akimel A-al Middle School offer a 6th- 8th grade Dual Language Program.

What is the transition plan to High School?

Kyrene School District and Tempe Union High School District have created a transition plan for students who fully participate in Dual Language to be able to earn high school credit and enroll in advanced Spanish courses in high school. High school credit and course placement are based upon their AAPPL assessment results from 8th grade. In addition, students will have the opportunity to qualify for and receive the Arizona Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma.

- Students who demonstrate a level N4 or above in all modes of communication (interpersonal listening/speaking, presentational writing, interpretive reading/listening) are eligible for a "Pass" grade in Spanish 1. A "pass" is not calculated into rank or GPA but is shown on the high school transcript.
- Students who demonstrate a level I3 or above in all modes of communication (interpersonal listening/speaking, presentational writing, interpretive reading/listening) are eligible for a "Pass" grade in Spanish 2. A "pass" is not calculated into rank or GPA but is shown on the high school transcript.

Students enrolled in the dual language program should register for Spanish 3 in anticipation of meeting assessment requirements. Course placements can be adjusted if necessary, after spring AAPPL testing.

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

Arizona has adopted the [Seal of Biliteracy](#) to recognize graduating seniors who attain proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English and at least Intermediate Mid proficiency level in one other World Language. The Seal is placed on an eligible student's diploma. (See A.R.S. 15-258)

What are the benefits of having my child participate in a Dual Language program?

Research shows that learning a second language at an early age

- Increases cognitive flexibility that results in higher-order thinking, problem-solving abilities, multitasking, creativity and focusing skills.

- Allows students to become proficient in a second language at no cost to their English development.
- Enriches and enhances a child's mental development.
- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language.
- Correlates with high academic achievement on standardized test measures including math (see [ACTFL Research](#)).
- Gives a child the ability to communicate with people he/she would otherwise not have the chance to know.
- Opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries.
- Increases job opportunities in many careers around the world. See [ACTFL's Oral Proficiency levels in the workplace](#).
- Additional research is available at the websites for [Center for Applied Linguistics \(CAL\)](#) and [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages \(ACTFL\)](#).

Is there a fee to enroll my child?

The Kyrene Dual Language Program is free for grades K through 8. Visit the [Kyrene Preschool page](#) for information about preschool programs.

Are there gifted/resource services?

Yes, services are provided according to Kyrene policies. Additional information is available on the Kyrene website under [Gifted Education](#) and [Special Education](#).

How can I help my child at home if I do not speak Spanish?

Students use resources provided by the teacher. In addition, students have access to resources for digital materials such as academic games, books, video and read alouds. We encourage all families to expose their children to Spanish at home by watching movies, listening to music, and reading books for a minimum of 30 minutes daily.

Will my child still have specials or electives?

All elementary students participate in Art, Music, Library, Physical Education, and Technology on a five-day rotating cycle. Middle school students select one or two electives courses each year depending on the school they attend.

Family Acknowledgement

I understand that I have made the choice for my child to attend the Kyrene Dual Language Program. I have been informed that the journey towards bilingualism, biliteracy, and multiculturalism is a long-term commitment and understand that Kyrene is committed to providing a K-8 Dual Language experience for my child.

As a parent/guardian of a Dual Language student, I understand:

- My child will receive 50% of their instruction in English and 50% of their instruction in Spanish in grades K through 5. In grades 6 through 8, instruction is provided in Spanish for 2 courses.
- The Dual Language Program is a rigorous program and attendance is a key component for my child's success in the program. I will ensure my child attends school on time every day unless he/she is ill, or we have a family emergency.
- If my child arrives late or he/she is picked up early, that he/she is missing instruction that might be difficult to make up on another day.
- I will help my child develop literacy and content knowledge in English and Spanish by using resources at home made available to me by my child's teachers.

In addition, I agree to participate in school activities including Meet the Teacher Night, Curriculum Night, Parent/Teacher conferences, and other school events.

I have read and understand the K-8 Kyrene Dual Language Program handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Print Parent/Guardian Name _____

Child's Name _____

School _____ Grade level _____ Teacher _____