

Welcome!
El Sol
Kindergarten
Orientation

March 4, 2026



Hello!



I am the
principal,
Dr. Wilson



Office Staff / Miembros del personal de la oficina



Sra. Trida Sanchez (Ms. Luci)
Lead Secretary
Secretaria principal



Sra. Flores (Ms. Maria)
Assistant Secretary
Secretaria Adjunta

Agenda

- Information about Kindergarten Enrollment
- General Kindergarten information
- The El Sol Dual Language Immersion program
- How to enroll your child
- Q and A



Kindergarten eligibility



- Students who will be five years old by Sept. 1 may enroll in kindergarten
- All schools offer full-day kindergarten
- Students are initially assigned to schools based on their home address. You must request a specific school (ie. El Sol)
- School assignment look-up (verify assignment with Student Services) *
- *El Sol is not a boundary school, so is not shown on the map

Meet the

Sra. Greenman



Sra. Hoekstra



Sra. Aguirre



What will my child be doing in kindergarten?

- Sharing and reading books
- Letter recognition, A-B-C's
- Counting
- Identifying sounds and words
- Drawing and writing
- Writing sentences
- Gross and fine motor
- Speech/language
- Cooperation in working with peers



Dual Language Immersion

Overview

The Three Pillars of Bilingual Education



What is Dual Language Immersion?

- Students learn content in two languages
- El Sol follows a 50/50 model
- Three pillars of Dual Language instruction
 - Language
 - Content
 - Culture
- It is a K-12 progression

Benefits of Bilingualism

- Bilingual Brains have more gray and white matter
- Aids focus and attention
- Fosters Enhanced cognition and Executive Function
- Stimulates creative and critical thinking skills
- Greater social and emotional intelligence
- Fosters a greater capacity for empathy



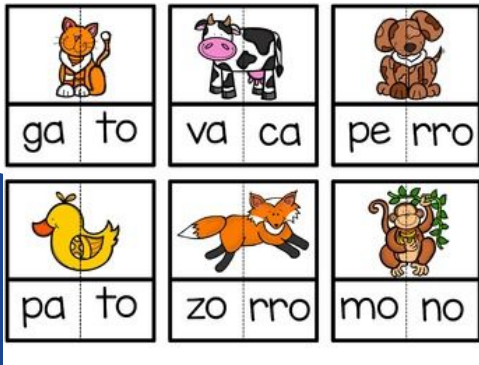
Video en español

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCsCq1LRTiE>







El Sol's Dual Language Immersion

Instructional Breakdown for Kindergarten:

- **Full Reading block in Spanish** - Maravillas Reading series
- **English Language Development literacy block** emphasizes NON-transferable Skills (skills that only exist in English and cannot be taught in Spanish)
- **Math is taught in Spanish** (with vocabulary bridging in English)
- **Science and Social studies are taught in English** (with vocabulary bridging in Spanish)
- **Content instruction follows Common Core State Standards for all subjects**



Practice Reading
CVC Words

| | |
|---|---|
| fan  | bat  |
| man  | cat  |
| pan  | hat  |

Teacher Aya Online Tutor

El Sol's Dual Language Immersion Program

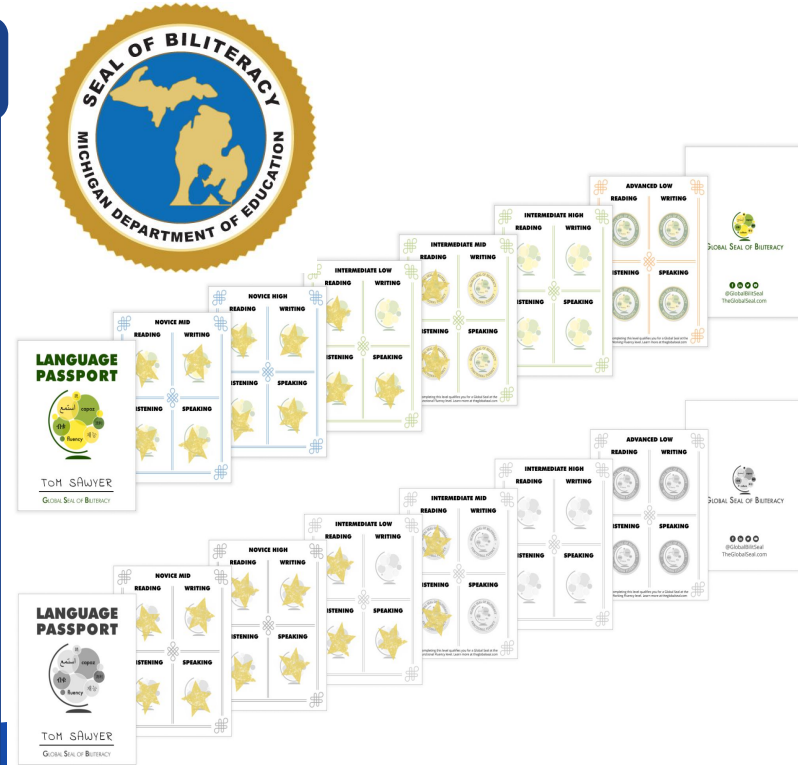
- El Sol teachers receive specialized professional development and coaching for Dual Language instruction
- More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the teachers at El Sol have, or are obtaining a TESOL Masters Degree
- Instruction at El Sol incorporates Dual Language Best Practices
- Parents will have opportunities to attend workshops throughout the year for Dual Language information and strategies for supporting your child at home



Pathway to Biliteracy

K - 12 Progression

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Kindergarten | Receive PTB Certificate |
| 2nd Grade | Proficiency Checkpoint #1 |
| 5th Grade | Proficiency Checkpoint #2 |
| Middle School | *2 Immersion Classes / Year |
| 9th & 10th Grade | Dual Enrollment on HS campus |
| 11th & 12th Grade | Spanish Courses at WMU |
| HS Graduation | Minor in Spanish + Seal of Biliteracy |



* The middle school track is under development as of 2025



Dual Language Program Information

- Letter from Principal
- Program history & overview
- Instructional allocations by grade
- Cultural focus by grade
- Pathway to biliteracy

Parent Contract

- Emphasis on learning both CONTENT and LANGUAGE
- Importance of regular attendance
- Importance of Pathway to Biliteracy

General Information

- Hours of operation
- Arrival / Pick Up procedures
- Absence procedures
- PTO & Volunteer Opportunities
- General information



El Sol Parent Handbook



*Una escuela, dos idiomas,
oportunidades infinitas*

*One school, two languages,
infinite opportunities*

Attendance Matters

The Importance of Regular Attendance at El Sol

- Instruction at El Sol takes place in English and Spanish
 - Students learn both *content* and *language*
 - Students who miss school may not be exposed to their second language *at all* that day
 - Your student risks falling behind in the second language
- Students feel more frustrated as gaps in language skills accumulate due to chronic absenteeism
- El Sol has a waiting list - students with extended absences risk being unenrolled and losing their spot in the program

How can I prepare my child for kindergarten?

- Read in English and Spanish. You can check out books in both languages at the public library.
- Watch videos with counting, letter naming, and songs in both languages

English Websites for Kindergarten Preparation

1. PBS Kids: <https://pbskids.org/>
2. Funbrain: <https://www.funbrain.com/>
3. Starfall: <https://www.starfall.com/h/>
4. Sesame Street: <https://www.sesamestreet.org/>
5. Alphabet recognition: http://www.littlegiraffes.com/abc_homepractice.html
6. Gracie's Corner Hip Hop Learning Songs:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nggz-1CEWfg&list=RDCMUCQ2FzqlvWSE7ysvL1sLWQ5Q&index=6>
7. ABC song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36IBDpTRVNE>
8. Letter Sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neltURLvyIQ&t=37s>



Spanish Kindergarten Resources

Páginas del red para prepararse para Kinder

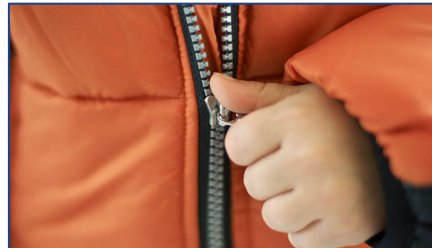
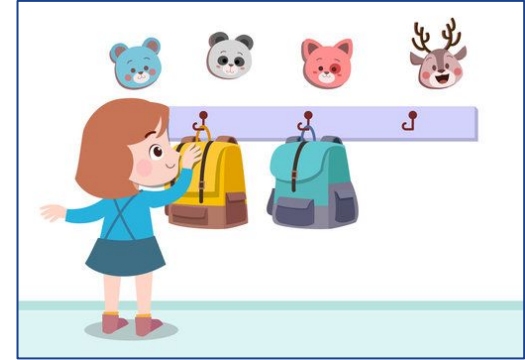
1. 123 Con Andrés: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwaM0mJEcQU>
2. Basho & Friends:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/bashoandfriends/featured>
3. Super Simple Songs:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SuperSimpleSongs/featured> - muchos en inglés y español
4. Rockalingua: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Rockalingua>
5. Calico Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/user/kidsimmersion>
6. Luna Creciente featuring El mono sílabo:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCscIA6WB0CrHlhmD-D7_bSA



¿De qué color?

How can I prepare my child for daily kindergarten routines?

- Tying their shoes
- Zipping their coat
- Putting on snow pants
- Buttoning shirts / pants
- Washing hands after they use the bathroom
- Opening their lunch containers & storing them back in their lunchbox
- Cleaning up after themselves (toys, books, papers, food wrappers, etc.)
- Following 1-3 step directions
- Organizing papers in a folder
- Putting supplies in a backpack



PTO: Get involved!

- More than just fundraising; we build community
- When parents are involved, children benefit academically, behaviorally, and socially
- Promotes strong collaboration between parents and staff
- There is a place for everyone!

Documents needed to be brought to the school to finalize enrollment:

- ❖ Your child's birth certificate
- ❖ Immunization record
- ❖ Two proofs of address (examples: utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage statement)
- ❖ Proof of hearing and vision screen (if available)
- ❖ Oral health assessment or proof of upcoming appointment

Enroll your child in KPS!

Click on the image below to be directed to the online enrollment platform.

Enroll in KPS!

New Student Enrollment Links (2026-27)

 ENGLISH

 ESPANOL



**First day of school
August 31, 2026**



**CLASS
OF 2039**

El Sol Elementary School
Grades K-5
604 W. Vine St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0230

Principal: Dr. Natalie Wilson

wilsonna@kalamazoopublicschools.net

Lead Secretary: Luciana Trida Sanchez

tridasanchezlg@kalamazoopublicschools.net

Child Accounting Secretary: Maria Flores

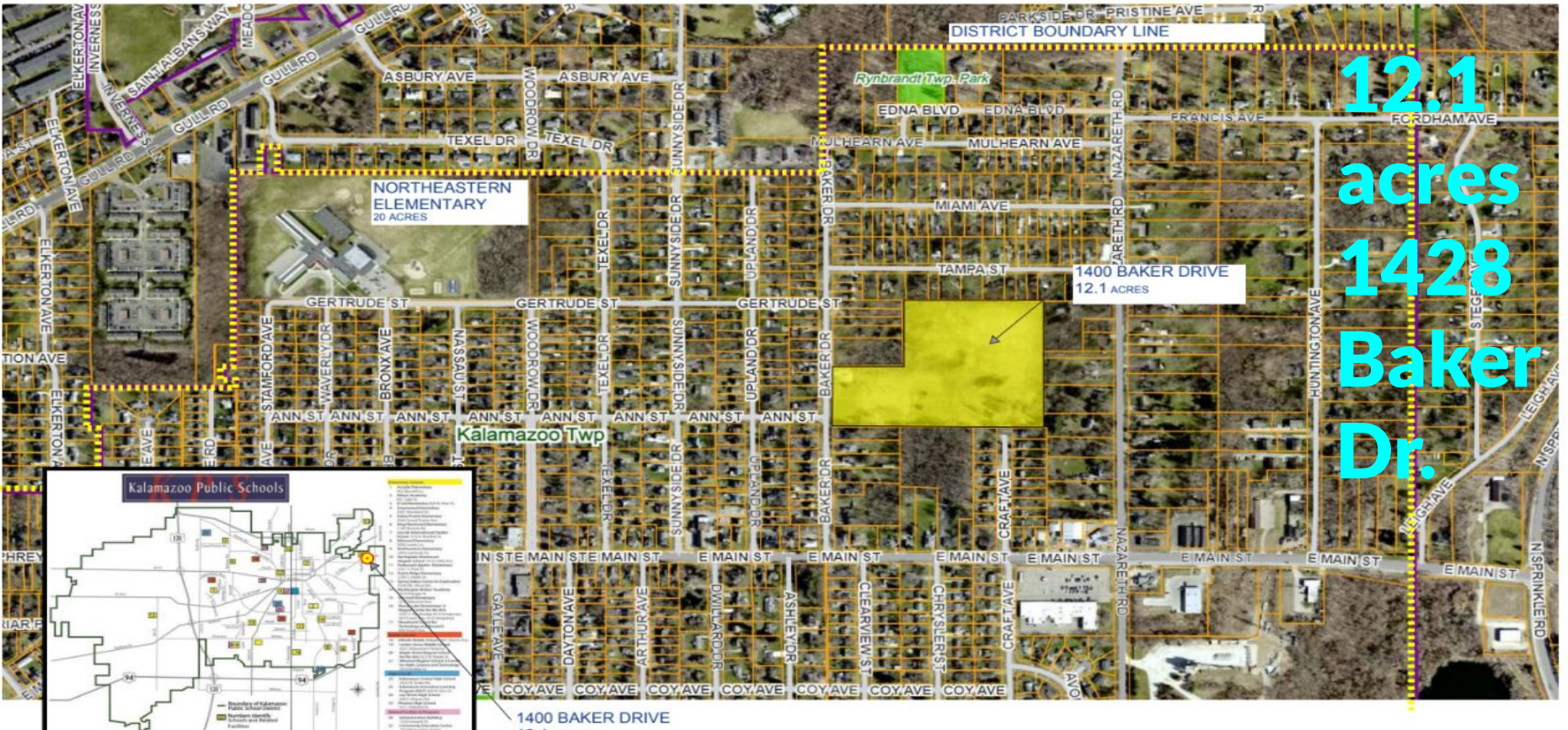
floresmg@kalamazoopublicschools.net



Q & A



El Sol New Building Site



El Sol New Building Site



Parcels 2023: SCHOOL DISTRICT OF KALAMAZOO

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| ACRES | 12.10 |
| GNTALUNIT | 6 |
| GOVUNIT | KALAMAZOO TWP |
| OERCAREOF | |
| ONERNAME1 | SCHOOL DISTRICT OF KALAMAZOO |
| ONERNAME2 | |
| ONERSTATE | MI |
| ORZIPCODE | 49007 |
| OTADDRESS | 1220 HOWARD |
| OWNERCITY | KALAMAZOO |
| P_PERCENT | 0.00 |
| PCOMBINED | BAKER DR VAC |

[Zoom to](#) ***

El Sol New Building Site

Ground View
1428 Baker Dr.

