

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Does the teacher in a two-way dual language classroom translate for the students?

A: No, the teachers maintain instruction in one language for the entire lesson. Peer support, communicative interactions, and strategies are used to support language acquisition. The goal is to have 50% of the instructional time in Spanish and 50% in English. Students receive instruction in both languages for reading and language arts skills.

Q: How soon can I expect to see progress in my child's second language learning?

A: If your child has little or no exposure to the second language when they begin the program, they will first go through a silent period. During this time, the student will be unable to respond orally in the second language and may or may not feel overwhelmed. It is important at this time that the child is encouraged to speak in whatever language they feel comfortable. Slowly, as they increase their comprehension, they will feel more comfortable to respond in their second language. Research shows that it takes from 3 – 7 years to develop native-like proficiency in a second language.

Q: Whom do I contact if I'd like my child to participate in next year's two-way dual language program?

A: Parents need to complete the program form and make sure the front office at FES receives it. There is a limited number of spots available for the program. We highly recommend signing your child up as soon as possible.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To create a classroom environment that promotes linguistic and cultural equality and fosters positive attitudes toward others
- To develop interpersonal, academic content, and linguistic competence in English and Spanish
- To develop and use higher level cognitive skills in Spanish and English
- To become a bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural global citizen



**Fellsmere
Elementary School**

**Dual
Language
Program**

Overview & Philosophy

OVERVIEW

Fellsmere Elementary is implementing a two-way dual language program. The Two-way Dual Language Program will consist of 50% instruction in English and 50% instruction in Spanish. The instruction will be taught by two different teachers that are native speakers of each language. The goal of this program is to produce bilingual, biliterate, and multicultural learners who are critical thinkers, leaders, and contributors in a diverse, competitive 21st century world. Biliterate students can read, write, speak, and comprehend in both English and Spanish.

PHILOSOPHY

Both language groups are integrated for all content instruction in an environment which promotes language and social equality while supporting full bilingual proficiency for both native and non-native speakers of English. Our Two-way Dual Language Program strives to cultivate understanding and appreciation of other cultures, inspire self-esteem, and strengthen positive attitudes among students, their families, and the community. Careful attention is paid to the development of bilingualism, biliteracy, and academic excellence. Students are expected to achieve academically at or above grade level in all content areas in both languages.

WHAT DOES THE TWO-WAY DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM OFFER?

- Students develop literacy and fluency in a second language while continuing to build their native language.
- Students learn from one another and practice real-life communication skills.
- Students are exposed to research-based teaching/learning practices such as cooperative learning, Theme units, project-based instruction, and performance-based learning.
- Students become life-long learners.

RESEARCH ON SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

- Positive effect on intellectual growth
- Positive effect on self-esteem
- Increased thinking flexibility
- Increased sensitivity and appreciation for other languages and cultures
- Increased job opportunities
- Positive impact on global economy
- Learning more than one language is the routine in other countries

CONTACTS

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Mr. Ramón Echeverría, Principal 772.564.5972 (bilingual)
Ms. Lyndsey Matheny, Assistant Principal 772.564.5975
Mrs. Rachel Rocha, Speech Language Pathologist
777.564.5976 (bilingual)
Mrs. Sara Hulings, English Teacher 772.564.6036
Mrs. Nancy De La Hoz, Spanish Teacher
772.564.6018 (bilingual)



Why a Dual Language Program?

Fellsmere Elementary's Two-way Dual Language Program takes advantage of the culturally and linguistically diverse population in Indian River County. Instead of separating students according to their primary language, they are placed together to learn from one another about their languages and cultures. Many different studies show that the best way to learn a second language is to use the new language in real-life, everyday situations. Our goal is to produce bilingual, biliterate students who will have an academic, social, and economic advantage in our multicultural world.

