

# NNPS Dual Language IMMERSION

Newport News Public Schools is pleased to share that our Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program is now offered at Saunders and Katherine Johnson Elementary Schools, and at Watkins Early Childhood Center and Denbigh Early Childhood Center for preschool. The DLI program at Saunders is open to students that are zoned for Palmer or Saunders elementary schools, and transportation is provided to Saunders if you live in these zones. The DLI program at Katherine Johnson is open to kindergarten students that are zoned for Greenwood, Stoney Run, and General Stanford elementary schools, and transportation is provided to Katherine Johnson if you live in these zones. The school district's DLI program offers students instruction in English and Spanish. Once accepted into the program, students can continue through middle school at Gildersleeve and high school at Menchville.



Each school offers DLI classes for students entering the program in pre-K or kindergarten, as well as classes for students continuing in the program. Half of the students in each class are native English speaking students and half are native Spanish speaking students. Students receive instruction in English for some subjects and in Spanish for others.

One class begins the school day learning in English with one teacher as the other class begins the day learning in Spanish. At the midpoint of the day, students switch classrooms and teachers, and continue learning in the other language.

Because the students in each class come from two language backgrounds, they learn cooperatively and assist one another as they develop proficiency in their second language. As a result, native English speakers develop high levels of oral and written proficiency in Spanish, and English learners develop a higher level of oral and written English proficiency than peers in traditional English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

The dual language program will grow over time, and new DLI classes will be added at each grade level through elementary, middle and high school. Students at the designated middle and high schools will take higher level Spanish language classes as well as courses in other subjects that are taught in Spanish.

The DLI program is open to all families with transportation being provided only for students who live in the specific zones of the DLI school sites. Families who would like to apply for the program but do not live in the specific school zones may apply for an administrative transfer and if approved must provide their own transportation to and from school, and must abide by the administrative transfer rules and regulations. Interested families should complete a DLI application and return it to the School Board Office or the school in which they are applying. Applications are available online or from schools. Paper copies may be returned to the school or to Susanna Bailey at the NNPS Central Administration Building at 12465 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23606. Students will be selected through a lottery system to maintain a 50-50 balance of English and Spanish speakers, and families will be notified of acceptance to the program by email or phone call.



## WHAT IS DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION?

Dual language immersion is a form of enrichment education in which students are taught in two languages.

Newport News Public Schools uses a 50/50 two-way DLI model, in which students spend 50% of the time learning literacy skills and other subjects in English and the other 50% in Spanish. DLI classes are comprised of half of native English speaking students and half native Spanish speaking students. All students receive instruction in both English and Spanish to develop proficiency in both languages.

The DLI program is built around the NNPS curriculum and meets all state Standards of Learning. Students receive literacy instruction (reading and writing) in both English and Spanish. Other subjects (math, science and social studies as well as art, music and PE) are taught in English or Spanish. Subjects taught in Spanish may vary from year to year.



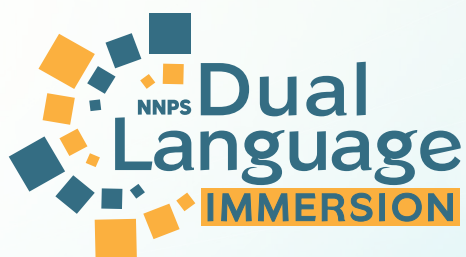
## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DLI?

Students participating in the DLI program will have the benefit of learning a second language while enriching their native language. DLI programs beginning in elementary school are considered one of the most effective ways for students to become truly bilingual and biliterate by the time they graduate from high school. DLI students exit the program fully bilingual, which carries its own benefits. By starting in kindergarten or earlier, students reach sufficient proficiency in their second language to profit from the cognitive boost that bilingualism affords, which in turn positively impacts their academic progress. Dual language students also expand their worldviews, and their knowledge of and respect for the customs and experiences of others.

In addition, English learners (ELs) benefit more from DLI programs than from traditional English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. Research has shown that dual language programs allow ELs to completely close the achievement gap on standardized state tests of reading in English.

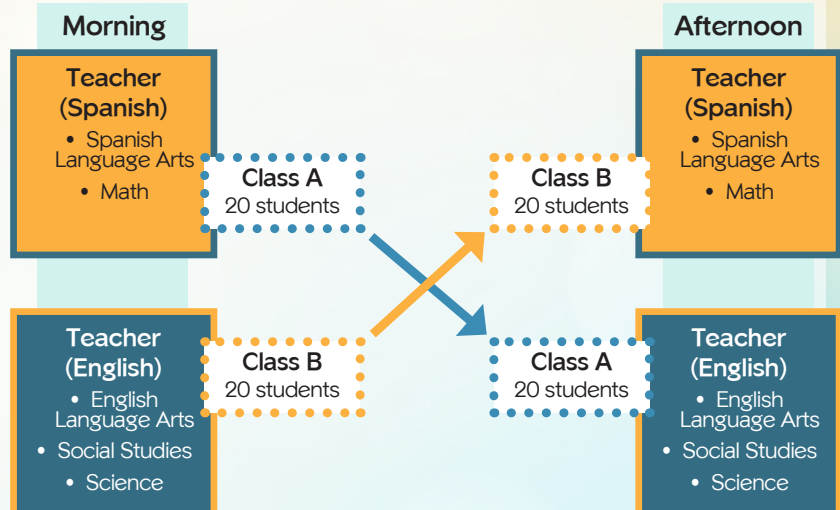
## WHAT A TYPICAL DAY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE:

Each participating school offers at least two DLI classes at each grade of the program. One class begins the school day learning in English with one teacher as the other class begins the day learning in Spanish. At the midpoint of the day, students switch classrooms and teachers, and continue learning in the other language. Some DLI classes might be self-contained. Depending on class sizes, some grade levels may not have the two teacher model. A bilingual teacher will provide instruction in both languages.



## HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE DLI PROGRAM?

If interested in applying for the DLI program, please visit <https://www.nn.k12.va.us/worldlanguage/duallanguage.html> to fill out an online application. Applications are also available at our DLI school sites as well as the Newport News Public Schools Administration Building.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

All students in Pre-K or kindergarten are eligible to apply for the program, transportation will be provided only for students who live in the Saunders and Palmer school zone, or the Katherine Johnson, Greenwood, Stoney Run, and General Stanford elementary school zones. Families who apply for the program from outside of the specific schools zones will have to provide their own transportation to and from school. Students will be selected through a lottery to maintain a 50-50 balance of English and Spanish speakers, and may be screened for kindergarten readiness. Families will be notified of acceptance to the program by mail or phone call. Additional students may be placed in the program on a space-available basis.