

Spanish Dual Language Program

*For More Information
Please Contact:*

Sarah J. Anderson Elementary
2215 NE 104 Street
Vancouver, WA 98665
360.313.1500

Sarah J. Anderson



*An academically challenging and
enriching program for developing
linguistic proficiency in
Spanish and English*



Why Dual Language?

- There is a “window of opportunity” that occurs between birth and age 10 in which the likelihood of developing higher levels of proficiency in a second language is far greater
- When compared to a control group of their peers receiving English instruction, bilingual students generally demonstrated greater academic gains
- By third or fourth grade, students generally tended to outperform comparable monolingual students
- Not only do students develop proficiency in the target language, they also develop increased cultural awareness. The ability to interpret cross-cultural interactions is crucial in today’s world.

Our Program

The Spanish Dual Language Program is a 50/50 bilingual educational program.

Each classroom will be made up of approximately 50% Spanish speaking and 50% English speaking students. This class grouping allows for cooperative interaction to facilitate language acquisition.

Working together in small groups where students are speaking both English and Spanish will result in increased learning for all students.

In grades kindergarten through five students will receive literacy instruction in both English and Spanish.

Program Goals

- Obtain high levels of achievement in all academic subjects
- Achieve true bilingualism and biliteracy of participating students
- Foster and promote cultural diversity and respect among all students

Parent Participation and Commitment

To ensure achievement and success it is necessary for families to commit to the program for at least six years (kindergarten through fifth grade). Active parent support is extremely important to the long-term success of students participating in the Dual Language Program. Program benefits are achieved when students remain in the program for the duration. Helping your child with homework, attending parent conferences and providing feedback increases the likelihood of student success.

Resources for Parents

- Center for Applied Linguistics: www.cal.org
- Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition: www.carla.umn.edu
- National Association for Bilingual Education: www.nabe.org
- New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education: www.nmabe.net

Features of a Spanish Dual Language Program

Bilingual students generally demonstrate great academic gains

Research shows that students in language immersion programs can develop strong academic skills in addition to becoming proficient in both languages. Research shows that students receive a variety of cognitive benefits, such as greater creative thinking, mental flexibility, and the ability to think abstractly.

Students have the opportunity to achieve true bilingualism and biliteracy in Spanish and English

Students learn languages more easily at an early age. Immersing and instructing students in the second language provides an effective vehicle for students to learn to speak, read and write proficiently in both languages by fifth grade.

Students develop cultural literacy as well as enhanced cognitive skills

Language immersion students benefit from the ability to communicate with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Application Process

1. Interested families must attend an information session, as well as complete and submit an application form for their child. Students residing within the Sarah J. Anderson boundaries will have first consideration to be admitted to the program.
2. In the event that there are more applicants than spaces available, students will be entered into a lottery drawing to determine order of placement into the program. Students residing within the school boundaries of Sarah J. Anderson Elementary will be placed in the first lottery drawing. The second lottery drawing will be for students outside of the school boundary, but within the Vancouver Public Schools' boundaries. The third lottery will be for students outside the Vancouver Public School District, as per district Regulation R5115.
3. Students not selected to participate in the program through the lottery process will be placed on a waiting list and will be added as program space and building capacity permit. The waiting list will not carry over from year to year, but will be established annually.
4. Once students are admitted to the program they will retain the rights for continued placement in the program from year to year. Annual renewal of boundary transfers for students living outside Sarah J. Anderson boundaries is required.