



### The Gift of Language

Dual Language is an academic program that enhances the development of bilingualism, biculturalism, and biliteracy so that students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally competitive economy.

- Students in dual language programs do as well as or better than students learning only in English on standardized tests given in English.
- Students in dual language programs develop respect for multiple cultural heritages.
- Students' cognitive function is positively impacted when they learn a second language.
- Students in dual language programs increase their marketable skills in a global society.

### Why Spanish?

- Spanish opens the doors to many domestic and international career opportunities.
- Sophisticated professions such as those in medicine, international distribution, the oil and gas industry, power generation, luxury goods, aviation, and other transportation technologies encompass extensive Spanish-speaking networks.
- Knowledge of the Spanish language is also an asset in the fields of science, math, business, law, medicine, arts, and humanities. Scores of major international businesses and organizations, as well as American companies, regularly recruit candidates who speak Spanish.
- Students who learn Spanish perform better on standardized tests since more than 50% of modern-day English words trace their origins to Spanish. This means that Spanish has a relatively quick learning curve which boosts a student's confidence.

### Who can participate?

The Dual Language Immersion program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications are open to all students entering kindergarten. However, it may not be a wise choice for children experiencing significant communication delays in their primary language.

**For more information about enrolling your child, please contact:**

**Toni Theisen**  
 World Languages TOSA  
 National Board Certified Teacher - French  
 ACTFL National World Language Teacher of the Year 2009  
 ACTFL National World Language Association President 2013  
 toni.theisen@thompsonschoools.org

**Eric Harting**  
 Cottonwood Plains Elementary Principal  
 eric.harting@thompsonschoools.org

**Karen Hanford**  
 Truscott Elementary Principal  
 karen.hanford@thompsonschoools.org

*You'll be delighted how quickly your child becomes a comfortable and competent Spanish speaker!*



2015-2016

Giving your child the gift of a second language



Immersion

Participating Schools

Cottonwood Plains  
Truscott





### Proven Benefits of Language Immersion

#### Second Language Skills

Students achieve high level proficiency in the immersion language.

#### Improved Performance on Standardized Tests

Students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and math administered in English.

#### Enhanced Cognitive Skills

Students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem-solving skills as well as an enhanced understanding of their primary language.

#### Increased Cultural Sensitivity

Students are more aware of and show more positive attitudes towards other cultures; a global skill needed for the 21st century.

#### Long Term Benefits

Students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset.

Sample Kindergarten Dual Language Schedule

| English Teacher |                        | Spanish Teacher |                  |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Morning         |                        | Morning         |                  |
| Group A         | English Literacy       | Group B         | Spanish Literacy |
|                 | Social Studies/Science |                 | Math             |
| Lunch           | Switch Teacher         | Lunch           | Switch Teacher   |
| Afternoon       |                        | Afternoon       |                  |
| Group B         | English Literacy       | Group A         | Spanish Literacy |
|                 | Social Studies/Science |                 | Math             |

### What to expect in a 50/50 immersion program

Instruction is divided between two caring and qualified teachers in two classrooms: one English, one Spanish.

#### English-speaking teacher

Uses half of the instruction day to teach English language arts as well as other subjects of the curriculum.

#### Spanish-speaking teacher

Uses the other half of the day to teach Spanish literacy, math, and portions of social studies and science from the grade-appropriate level of the Colorado State Standards.

In class, the Spanish teacher speaks only in Spanish and communicates using a range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, drama, pantomime, etc. Children at this age are adept at picking up language in meaningful contexts. After a brief period at the beginning of the year, students too, will speak only in Spanish during Spanish instruction.

### Program Goals

- Maximize students' Spanish language proficiency
- Provide a rich academic environment
- Develop students' abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
- Offer a rich, culturally-diverse experience



### Parent Responsibilities

- commit to long-term participation in the language immersion program
- develop an understanding of language immersion education
- read with your child (in English) 20-30 minutes daily
- encourage the use of Spanish outside of school
- provide community support and, when possible, volunteer
- enjoy the challenges; celebrate the results

