

Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program

*Parent/Guardian Information Session
2022-2023*



Welcome and Bienvenidos!

- Introductions
 - a. Ricardo Araiza, Ed.D., Director, Multilingual Learners
 - b. Erica Ultreras, M.A., Principal, Conejo Elementary School

- Presentation Agenda
 - a. Definition of Dual Language Immersion (DLI)
 - b. Benefits of DLI for students
 - c. DLI Model
 - d. Review of instructional supports and strategies
 - e. Parent/guardian supports
 - f. Parent/guardian testimonial
 - g. Additional opportunities at Conejo Elementary
 - h. Enrollment procedures and requirements
 - i. Question and answers



Defining a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program

- Enrolled students maintain their primary language and receive academic instruction in their primary language, **plus** they learn a second language and receive academic instruction in the second language - therefore it is **additive learning**
- Bilingualism, biliteracy and bicultural competencies develop and solidify over time - hence dual language immersion is across all elementary grades (TK-5)
- Important to start in early grades to build the academic language in the second language



Defining a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program

- Consists of a primary-language balance between and among the students because they organically learn from one another
 - Approximately ½ primary English speakers
 - Approximately ½ primary Spanish speakers
- Immersion means the student acquires the second language and literacy throughout the school day via three primary strategies:
 - Engagement with peer language models
 - Direct instruction from an English speaking teacher and a Spanish speaking teacher (50:50 model will be described)
 - Access to materials and curriculum in English and Spanish



Benefits of Dual Language Immersion

- Educational:
 - Comparable or higher academic achievement than English-only programs
 - Both English-only and English Learner students show improved academic outcomes in math and reading in elementary grades
 - Reduced highschool dropout rates for English Learner students
 - Increased metalinguistic awareness - understanding how language works, ability to dissect language, analyze language and think beyond the meaning of each word
 - Precursor to metacognition
 - Improved critical thinking
 - Significantly better academic performance and outcomes for English Learner students when compared to English-only instruction



Benefits of a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program

- Sociocultural:
 - Increased empathy and perspective taking due to an increased ability to more deeply understand other cultures and experiences
 - Promotes cultural awareness
 - Positive cross-cultural interactions and attitudes
- Economic:
 - Increased career opportunities across both private and public sectors
 - Increased compensation for use of bilingual/biliterate skills



Dual Language Immersion 50:50 Model

- Students will spend approximately half day learning the state standards through the English language and the other half of the day, state standards will be taught through Spanish
- Each subsequent grade level will remain a split of 50% instruction in Spanish language and 50% instruction in English
- The 50:50 model requires instruction in key content areas, such as language arts and math, so that the skills are not retaught in both languages, but rather built upon in each language
- Due to this unique design, it is important that parents commit through the elementary school years to ensure that students receive the adequate language and curriculum support year after year



Family Engagement

- Family Education and Connection
- Family Engagement Opportunities
- Bilingual Staff and Outreach
- Consistent Bilingual Communication and Interaction between Home and School



Parent Testimonials



Additional Opportunities at Conejo Elementary

- Home to Conejo Elementary and OCLM - Transfer Opportunities
- Hop into School Summer Program
- Franklin Covey Leader in Me Lighthouse School
- Weekly Enrichment Classes - Dance, Science, Art, Physical Education
- Partnership with Hillcrest Center for the Arts - Elementary Music Program
- Spanish as a Second Language for Non-DLI Students
- STAR After School Program TK-5 - Free of Charge
- Tutoring Program
- Free Breakfast and Lunch for all Students
- 1:1 Chromebooks in Grades TK-5



DLI Enrollment Procedures and Requirements

- Each classroom = maximum of 24 students
- Balance of primary languages among the students is necessary
 - Spanish primary
 - English primary
 - Established bilingual
- Six (6-7) year enrollment commitment (TK-5th grade)
- Three (3) avenues to enroll:
 - Neighborhood school (starts January 30, 2023)
 - CVUSD school choice (starts Nov 1, 2022)
 - Inter-district transfer (starts Nov 1, 2022)
- Enrollment confirmation will occur in April, 2023
- Please visit our DLI website for details about enrollment



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- **Why is this offered only in Kindergarten? I would like my 2nd grader to access DLI.**
 - Students are learning the academic language, in addition to conversational language and we need to allow students that learning time.
 - Difficult on students to learn academic language in later grades, as DLI goes far beyond conversational skills
- **Do you plan to extend DLI into middle and high schools?**
 - Yes, we look forward to extending ongoing DLI learning to middle and high schools; however it does look differently at those grade spans.



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- **If my child has a disability, how will their unique learning needs be met?**
 - It depends on your child's learning needs. Special education services will be provided to students at Conejo Elementary.
 - There are additional considerations for students with a disability in determining which language the academic instruction is originally delivered in as matching that language is important
- **Conejo Elementary is our neighborhood school, is my child guaranteed enrollment?**
 - Your child will have priority for enrollment, but it is not guaranteed.
 - Consideration of the overall makeup of the students so there is primary-language balance between English and Spanish so there are language models



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Questions?

