


How to support your Dual Language student

- **Have your student teach you to say something in the target language every day.** Explaining is learning. Let your child laugh at your mangled pronunciations and correct you.
- **Find cultural events connected to the language and culture being studied.**
- **Have your child spend time with a native speaker.** Contact a bilingual family member, friend, neighbor, or caretaker who can spend time with your child. You can set up playdates or excursions in which this person can speak to your child in the target language, thus creating a truly immersive experience.
- **Provide videos, books, and music in the language.** There are many resources online. Our schools use iStation, which can be downloaded and used at home. There is also a wealth of Spanish story books on www.getepic.com and on YouTube. A great one to look up is “El MonoSilabo” for younger students.
- **Use kid-friendly language-learning software.** such as www.earlylingo.com, which offers lessons in Spanish. Other options parents can look into are www.littlepim.com, www.gusontheho.com, www.onlinefreespanish.com
- **Find extracurriculars in a foreign language.**
- **Learn the language together.** While this may be the most time-consuming option of all, if you have the time and are interested in learning a foreign language, you can make this a team effort. It may be the longest route, but it is one that will have you and your child bonding through your mutual learning.




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Elementary
Dual Language
Program



Bilingual/ESOL Department



What is a Dual Language Program?

Dual Language Programs are those in which two languages are used for instruction. Instruction is given in English and another Language.

- The Program adheres to high expectations and rigorous standards for all students.
- The Program incorporates English speaking students with students whose native language is one other than English.
- The program develops oral, written, and reading proficiency in both languages.

Goal of the Program

The BCPS Dual Language Program offers a school within school approach to second language acquisition education. The goal of the program is to provide students with the opportunity to become fully bilingual by learning listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English and a second language.

Language Acquisition

- Language is acquired in a sequential and spiral form. The earlier the student is taught a second language, the better their opportunity to become fully bilingual.
- Research shows that it takes from **five to seven** years to acquire academic language. If the student starts learning a second language in high school, it is often too late to become bilingual.
- The knowledge and skills acquired in one language are transferred to the second language.

Benefits of a Dual Language Program

- Develops higher order thinking skills as students learn a second language.
- Knowledge learned through one language facilitates acquisition of the second language.
- Students meet the demands of today's global society and economic opportunities.
- Prepares students for college and career readiness.
- Student's benefit from cognitive advantages associated with second language acquisition.
- Promotes multicultural awareness and appreciation for other languages and cultures.
- Promotes parental choice in their child's education.

Description of the Program

The BCPS Dual Language Program will begin in Kindergarten. Students who participate in the program will continue at the next grade level the following year. Students will learn the second language in context. Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math are taught in English and Spanish.



BCPS Dual Language Program offers 2 models in Elementary Two Way Developmental

Students will receive one and a half hour daily of instruction in Spanish in Language Arts, Social Studies and Science.

Two Way Developmental Extended

Students will receive two and half-hours daily of instruction in Spanish in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math.

Middle & High School Model

World Language course: Spanish for Spanish Speakers, plus a content area course or elective taught in the target language.

Research Findings

- Strictly structured and well-implemented dual language instruction across all subjects of the curriculum provides all students the opportunity to develop a deep academic proficiency in two languages, which will give them the tools to become highly-sought-after bilingual professionals in today's more globalized world. (V. Collier & W. Thomas, 2017)
- Students randomly assigned to dual language immersion programs outperformed their peers in reading in English by seven months in grade five and by nine months in grade eight. (American Councils Editorial Staff July 12, 2017)