

Why the Long-term Commitment?

Research has shown that it takes 5 to 7 years for a child to become academically proficient in a second language.

What is the curriculum?

- ◆ State and district curriculum standards will guide instruction.
- ◆ Teachers will use challenging strategies that promote high levels of language and academic achievement.
- ◆ Language will be taught through subject-area concepts.

District Commitment

Our school district will provide your child with high quality instruction and support in both English and Spanish in all academic areas. This will enable your child to become bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.

*"All students will be provided a
Quality Education"*



DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

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What is Dual Language?

Dual Language programs provide literacy and content instruction in two languages (English/Spanish) and integrate native English speakers with native Spanish speakers.

Dual Language programs differ from traditional foreign language programs in the instructional focus:

- ◆ Traditional programs focus on learning the language as a subject.
- ◆ Dual language programs focus on learning content through the language.

What are Program Goals?

- ◆ To develop a high level of proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading and writing in English and Spanish.
- ◆ To develop positive attitudes toward those who speak the other language and toward their culture.
- ◆ To prepare students to perform at or above grade level in both languages.
- ◆ To promote self-esteem and leadership skills.
- ◆ To have more career possibilities in a global economy.

What does Portales School

District's program look like?

Portales is implementing a 50/50 dual language immersion model where the instructional time is half in English and half in Spanish.

- ◆ Dual Language instruction is offered K-6.
- ◆ An additive bilingual environment that has full support of school administrators, teachers and parents.
- ◆ Students enter the program in Kindergarten.
- ◆ Certified Bilingual and/or TESOL endorsed Teacher will deliver 50% of instruction in English and 50% in Spanish.
- ◆ Students learn content information (Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts) in both languages.
- ◆ Students leave sixth grade bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.
- ◆ All students learn to read and write in Spanish.

How long will my child be in the program?

Students should stay in the program from Kindergarten through 6th grade, so that:

- ◆ Program goals can be achieved.
- ◆ The educational plan can be continuous.
- ◆ The language balance required by the program can be maintained.

What is my role as a parent?

- ◆ Value both languages and cultures equally.
- ◆ Ensure your child's continuous enrollment throughout the duration of the program.
- ◆ Continue reading to your child in your primary language.
- ◆ Maintain close communication with your child's teacher in order for you to be able to help your child at home.