

## DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION (DLI) PROGRAM

The diversity that Pleasant Run has acquired over the past several years provides a perfect platform for all students to have the opportunity to learn and develop a second language. A Spanish-English dual language immersion program will begin in Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year to complement the changes of the Pleasant Run community. Through a dual language immersion program (also known as two-way immersion) students will be exposed to the same curriculum as their peers while also having the opportunity to learn a second language. Cultures will be explored and students will work and learn together, preparing them for a successful future in the multicultural world in which we live.

“World Learners Today.....World Leaders Tomorrow.”

What is a Dual Language Immersion Program?

Dual language immersion programs integrate native English speaking students with native Spanish speaking students for academic instruction, which is presented in both languages. Social and academic learning occurs in an environment that values the language and culture of all students and sets high standards to ultimately achieve academic success in Spanish and English. Classrooms are composed of 50 percent native English speakers and 50 percent native Spanish speakers. This ratio enables students to be language majority models and second language learners. The language used for instruction is also broken down by a 50/50 ratio. Fifty percent of classroom instruction is provided in English and fifty percent of classroom instruction is provided in Spanish. All students learn to read, write, listen, and speak two languages equally well.

The dual language model creates an additive bilingual environment, which allows students to acquire a second language while maintaining and developing their native language. The curriculum of the program is the same as in the general education program. All academic areas: reading, language arts, math, science, and social science, are taught in both Spanish and English.

What are the goals of the Dual Language Immersion Program?

The mission of Pleasant Run Elementary is “To develop the minds, bodies, and characters of our students in a biliterate and bicultural environment in order to maximize their potential as individuals to engage with the world.”

Students in dual language programs are presented with the social and cognitive benefits of bilingualism. They gain a second language, a broader vocabulary, and multiple views of the world, (Cazabon, Lambert, & Heise-Baigorria, 2002). In order to acquire these benefits, the program sets out to accomplish the following goals:

- To provide valuable skills to students
- To develop both native language and second language
- To broaden students’ understanding of the world
- To develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English and Spanish
- To obtain high academic achievement

Curriculum and Teaching

Teachers will deliver a curriculum that is aligned to state standards. Foreign language and English language learner standards will also be incorporated. Assessments will be given throughout the program to track academic and language achievement. Differentiated instruction will be incorporated into daily lesson plans to meet the needs of all students.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Informational Parent Meeting @ Pleasant Run Elementary April 7, 2016

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Top 10 Reasons for Being in a Dual Language Immersion Program

To acquire a second language

To have a greater capacity for listening

To think more creatively and analytically

To develop better communication skills

To express enthusiasm and have an aptitude for problem solving

To have a greater awareness of self and others

To gain insights into other cultures

To unify staff and students in creating a shared linguistic community

To provide access to a greater part of the world

To take advantage of the optimal time to learn a language and develop an appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures, peoples, and perspectives in the world.