



SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOLS

SPANISH IMMERSION

TO OUR 2010-2011 IMMERSION FAMILIES

April 8, 2010

Hola!

WELCOME TO SPANISH IMMERSION!

We are very excited to have **your child enrolled** in the **2010-2011** Spring Lake Park School District's **Spanish Immersion program**.

In year one (2009-2010) the program was held at both Northpoint and Woodcrest Elementary schools. Changes and fine-tuning are a part of any program in its developing stages. As we indicated throughout the early enrollment period, the location of next year's program would be dependent upon interest, enrollment, space considerations, and what is best for continued success of the program.

Our analysis of Immersion enrollment has now been completed. In order to continue to provide all options to all families, and to take the program to the next level, kindergarten and first grade learners in 2010-2011 will be in a "school-within-a-school" on the site of Westwood Intermediate School, 701 91st Avenue NE, Blaine.

The start time for first grade students and for full-day kindergarten students Westwood will be 8:45 a.m. and the school day will end at 3:20 p.m. The half day kindergarten program times for A.M. kindergarten are 8:45 – 11:15 a.m. and for P.M. kindergarten are 12:50 – 3:20 p.m.

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL: A "SCHOOL-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL"

The reasons for choosing one site beginning next year are many, including:

- We look forward to creating a special learning environment with all Immersion students in one location that will take the program to the next level.
- Parents will be fully involved and family events will be offered to enrich the experiences of students and their families to build an even greater sense of community
- All Immersion staff will be at one site, enabling the all-important professional dialogue and sharing of ideas of as they work together to meet the needs of students. We will be able to do even more with appropriate groupings of learners, teachers, and support staff.
- We will be able to better address changes in enrollment, to continue to provide all program options to all district families, to concentrate and maximize resources and staffing, and to provide a vibrant and successful educational experience.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

We will continue to provide more details and answers to your questions. An informational session will be held at Westwood Intermediate School on Tuesday, April 27, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Answers to some of what are sure to be your initial questions are provided below:

Will transportation be provided to Westwood?

Yes, transportation will be provided to and from Westwood from your bus stop. Students will ride the bus with Westwood Intermediate School's fourth and fifth graders just like when we had K-5 schools several years ago.

We have patrols on the buses and one will be assigned to assist our Spanish Immersion kindergarten and grade one students. We will also accommodate students seating in the front of the bus or they can sit with their brothers or sisters who may already attend Westwood.

Will there be before or after school child care available?

Yes, the school district's Community Education Department will provide multiple child care options: You can have your child at Westwood Kids Club, or choose Kids Club at your home K-3 school and transportation would be provided to and from Westwood.

Does Westwood have kindergarten classrooms?

Yes, the school was recently remodeled with kindergarten classrooms.

Will there be opportunities for parents to become involved?

Yes, our Westwood PTO is excited to have the new Spanish Immersion families join us next year. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role in the PTO, give me a call. We will begin planning events for next year for both the kindergarten and grade one students as well as the fourth and fifth graders.

Our PTO plans a variety of great events for our students. Some of these events will be all-school events; some will be specifically for the fourth and fifth graders, and some specifically for Immersion students. Westwood is a place where all students belong, are valued, and where all students' social development needs are met. Our hope is that the families of our Immersion students help us plan some of the events and become a part of the Westwood community.

When will you know more details?

We will continue to update you about our plans for the exciting Spanish Immersion–Westwood "school-within-a-school" over the next two months.

- An information meeting will be held at Westwood Intermediate School on Tuesday, April 27, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- In addition, you'll want to place this event on your calendar: We will have a Spanish Immersion Open House for students and parents on Wednesday, June 2, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., at our new site. The open house will provide you and your child with time to tour the school and visit with some of our Immersion teachers.
- Prior to the start of school, there will also be an Open House/Meet-And-Greet for our Immersion families.

Next year will be an exciting year in the continuing development of our Spanish Immersion program. If you have any questions, please call me at 763-784-8551 or send me an email at tlarso@district16.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Larson
Westwood Intermediate School principal,
Spanish Immersion program director