



SPANISH IMMERSION

Answers to questions, parent comments. Follow-up to the Feb. 18 meeting with kindergarten immersion parents

March 1, 2010



Parent Comments on the 2009-10 Kindergarten Immersion Program

- “My child loves the program. He is learning the language and has started speaking Spanish at home.”
- “My five-year-old knows as much Spanish as my high school student.”
- “Since my child has been in the Immersion program he has an interest in the Hispanic culture.”
- “We are very proud of the program that Spring Lake Park offers – we should show it off.”



Answers to Questions About Next Year's 2010-2011 Immersion Program

Will this year's kindergartners loop into grade one with their current teacher?

This would depend on staffing and we are not sure who will be teaching what grade in the Immersion program. Students most likely will be mixed up and then assigned to a teacher.

Who are the teachers for next year?

Staffing is typically done in April or early May. We do not yet know who the teachers are. We know we will need to hire Immersion teachers for next year.



Answers to Questions About Next Year's 2010-2011 Immersion Program

Are there going to be summer opportunities for the students?

We are working with school district's Community Education Dept. to bring different choices to families. A variety of options are being considered, from reading classes to soccer to art in Spanish.

Why don't you move the program to one location?

This is one of the options we are considering depending on enrollment. At this time it is too early to tell if this is a viable option for next year or if we should grow the program further and then move the program to one location. We do not want to move the program for next year and then move the program to another location the year after.



Answers to Questions About Next Year's 2010-2011 Immersion Program

Is the program part of the budget modification process?

The Spanish Immersion program is not going to be cut; it is primarily a cost-neutral program. There are some expenses for materials and busing depending on location. We knew of these costs going into the program.

When will parents know of the location for next year?

If there is a change from the Northpoint or Woodcrest locations, our goal is to notify parents by the end of the school year of the location for the program next year.



Answers to Questions About Next Year's 2010-2011 Immersion Program

Will transportation be provided to Northpoint if you are not at that school?

Transportation is provided to Northpoint if you are a Northpoint family. If you are a Woodcrest or Park Terrace family, transportation will be provided to Woodcrest. (unless you are currently a Woodcrest walker).

Will the new first graders be added to current classes or start another class?

The new Spanish Immersion first graders (those beginning this year) will be added to the existing classrooms (those who were in Immersion as kindergartners) to fill up spots. We researched this and this practice was recommended. It is similar to another student coming into a classroom who may not be at the same skill level. While there is a gap to start off with, but by three months into the year they have caught up with their peers.