



**SPRING
LAKE
PARK
SCHOOLS**

Spanish Immersion in Spring Lake Park Schools Parent Information Meeting

March 8, 2010



What is Immersion?

The regular school curriculum is taught in the immersion language for the majority of the day. In Spring Lake Park Schools this would be Spanish.



Why should I consider enrolling my child in an immersion program?

- Cognitive benefits
 - Increased problem solving skills
 - Increased verbal skills
 - Increased flexible thinking
- Students become bilingual
- Increased Cultural and Global awareness



English Language and Literacy Development

- Typically children score at or above their peers in English language and literacy skills by grade five. In grade three they likely will score below their English-only language peers but will improve over the next few years.



What will the Immersion program look like?

- Students would have the majority of their instruction in the immersion language (k-2)
 - 80% Spanish/20% English
- Specialists (Phy. Ed, Music, Art) would be in English (K-5)
- In grades 3 - 5 language arts would be in English and the remainder of the day would be in the immersion language – around 50% of their day.



What to expect in an Immersion classroom

- The majority of the time the teacher will speak in Spanish.
- The teacher and principal will have the same expectations for learning the District Curriculum as a Standard Kindergarten classroom.
- Students will speak to each other and their teacher in their first language.
- Some children may be frustrated the first weeks of school.




When do the students begin to speak in Spanish?

- Typically this will vary – in instructional guided settings it is in January.
- Students will have phrases, songs, and rhymes they learn early on.
- Repetition in the day is key for both English and Spanish classrooms. This is typical in the morning routine with calendar and the morning meeting.
- Listening, speaking, reading, writing is the typical progression of learning a language.



Instruction in an Immersion classroom

- Instruction occurs through the same components and strategies in Language Arts as in an English classroom –
 - phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension
 - Guided reading/writing, shared reading/writing, read alouds, independent reading/writing



How will they understand what is being said?

- The Spanish Language instruction occurs through the use of
 - Body language, gestures, facial expressions
 - Songs, rhymes, useful phrases
 - Manipulatives, visual aids



Is Immersion for everyone?

- Any parent can enroll their child in the Immersion program.
- Immersion is not for every student – you know your child best.
- The process for learning to speak in Spanish will be similar to the process your child learned to speak in English.
- If your child has a language processing issue an immersion program may be a struggle.



Helping My Child at Home

- Read to and with your child in English every day.
- The process of learning to read is the same regardless of language.
- This is the best and most important thing you can do for any child.
- Maintaining fluency in your first language is important for literacy skills.
- Directions for homework are sent home in English and Spanish.



Measuring Progress

- Teachers use assessments aligned to the Spring Lake Park learning targets. These will include teacher-created common assessments and standardized assessments.



Spring Lake Park Spanish Immersion Student Data

- In the process of learning to read, as measured by our data, the Immersion students are on track with our English students
 - English Kindergartners
 - 90% meeting benchmark for LNF (letter names)
 - 72% meeting benchmark for ISF (initial sounds)
 - 87% meeting benchmark for PSF (phonemic segmenting)
 - Spanish Immersion Kindergartners
 - 93% meeting benchmark for FNL (letter names)
 - 43% meeting benchmark for ISF (initial sounds)
 - This assessment requires students to recall the names for four Spanish words for each item in order to be successful.
 - 76% meeting benchmark for FSF-TLP (phonemic segmenting)



Spring Lake Park Spanish Immersion

- Inside Spanish Immersion kindergarten classrooms in the Spring Lake Park Schools
- http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/panthertv/videos/district/enrollment/spanish_immersion_2010.asp



Spanish Immersion 2010-2011

Full Immersion 80/20 classroom model

Offered at two schools

- Woodcrest: Kindergarten TBD
First Grade
- Northpoint: Kindergarten TBD
First Grade



Transportation

- Park Terrace students will be offered busing to transport them to Woodcrest.
- Northpoint busing is provided for Northpoint attendance area.
- If the program changes to a different location, transportation would be provided.



If the District is reducing the budget, why are we implementing Immersion?

- The budget modification process is designed to put the District in a position to reach the vision of being a world class learning community of choice where every child is college ready, has a sense of belonging, and is valued.
- There is some cost to purchase the curricular materials in the immersion language.
- The remainder of the cost is neutral – we would need the teacher regardless of program.



Next Steps

- If you would like to enroll your child in the immersion program – fill out the enrollment form.
- Enrollment forms are due by Friday, March 19, 2010



More Information?

- Refer to the home page of school district web site at SpringLakeParkSchools.org
- Information is posted at each K-3 school page on the website and in the news section on the district home page.