

Frequently Asked Questions about Community Park's DLI Program

Would the district consider the possibility of expanding the Dual-Language Immersion (DLI) Program within Community Park or to other schools?

At this time, the district is assessing staffing and resources in order to explore the possibility of expanding the program to all classes. At the same time, the district is gathering information on the actual level of parental interest at other schools.

Who will be enrolled in the DLI Program? Will there be a large percentage of students who are currently in ESL (English as a Second Language) participating in the program?

Currently about 10 percent of Community Park students receive ESL/Bilingual services; less than one percent are in Kindergarten this year. Native Spanish speaking students are an integral part of immersion programs.

What is the district policy for siblings of students in the immersion program?

Siblings of current Community Park dli students who will still be Community Park students at the time the incoming kindergarten student begins school have first priority. They will have a space in the program, as long as they follow all registration requirements including registration at the school during the Kindergarten registration period of February 2, 3 & 4 and attendance at the February 23 or 24 parent meeting.

Can students enter the program later on (after kindergarten) if a spot opens up? What happens if a new child moves into the district?

If there is space available, a student who has appropriate grade-level proficiency in the language, based on a series of written and oral assessments, may move into the program. These students are likely to be native Spanish speakers or students with prior experience in a Spanish dual-language immersion program. If the student does not live in the Community Park neighborhood then parents will need to provide their own transportation.

What happens if the DLI population shrinks? Will the traditional class get too big?

Community Park experiences constant shifts in enrollment because of incoming and outgoing students. District efforts to balance enrollment will be addressed as needed.

Will the traditional class have the same students year after year?

Some students will be with the same classmates from grade level to grade level, as presently happens. However, the school's enrollment is fluid as students enter and exit the school each year. The children will have the opportunity to interact with other classes in specials, recess and lunch, as well as whole-grade level events, assemblies and special projects.

Will there be an opportunity for second language acquisition for the non-immersion class?

Yes, the Spanish teacher will provide World Language Instruction to each of the traditional classes. During 2015-16 these classes had Spanish instruction four days per week for 20 minutes each day.

What are the dates for the registration, lottery and the ultimate decision? Will Community Park take surrounding private school acceptance and decision dates into account?

Kindergarten Registration – February 2, 3 & 4

Mandatory Parent Information Sessions – February 23 at 9:00 am or February 24 at 7:00 pm

DLI Application (distributed at mandatory parent meetings)- due by March 2

Lottery, if necessary – March 3

Signed Parent Contract – due by March 15

What will be the size of the dual-language immersion classes?

Each class for the immersion program will be capped at 22.

How will parents be able to help their children with homework if subjects are being taught in Spanish?

Many of the subjects have materials in both Spanish and English (for example, Everyday Math) and for most subjects there are online resources and books available in both Spanish and English. There will also be an emphasis on teacher/parent communication. That stated, the expectation is that students do their homework independently.

Can you put dli information online?

Yes, please see the website for more material: http://www.princetonk12.org/Dual_Immersion/

