Bellflower Unified School District's dual language immersion program educates kindergarten through sixth grade students to become both bilingual and biliterate adults. Our program extends into middle school with two courses in Spanish: Social Studies and Spanish Language Arts. California Standards are the foundation for all instructional planning in both languages. Students also participate in cultural lessons and activities that build their understanding of the culture. Our dual language immersion team participates in professional development to increase pedagogical practices and provide a seamless transition from one grade level to the next. As families join our dual language immersion program, it is our expectation students will commit to the program for their elementary education and beyond. Our team works diligently implementing research based strategies that prepare students to acquire the Seal of Biliteracy at their high school graduation, in preparation to live and work in a multi-cultural and global economy.
Dual Immersion Philosophy

- Our program is based on the 90%-10% model of language acquisition.
- The development of both languages is gradual.
- Our program philosophy is that both languages should be learned to high academic levels.
- Our curriculum is aligned in a rigorous manner with the California Standards in all content areas such as mathematics.

Our program philosophy is research based on the understandings that acquiring a second language:

- Is a natural process for students
- Enriches, fortifies, and develops the brain
- Prepares students to appreciate diversity in a global society

“Children who learn in two languages develop a ‘common underlying proficiency’ which is transferable between languages.” (Cummins, 1987)
Language Acquisition

• The optimal window for language acquisition is in the elementary years.

• “The power to learn a language is so great in the young child that it doesn’t seem to matter how many languages you seem to throw their way….They can learn as many spoken languages as you can allow them to hear systematically and regularly.”

Dr. Curtiss, Linguistics Professor, UCLA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Language Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>90% Spanish:10% English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td>90% Spanish:10% English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>80% Spanish:20% English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
<td>70% Spanish:30% English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>60% Spanish:40% English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade</td>
<td>50% Spanish:50% English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Grade</td>
<td>50% Spanish:50% English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two Levels of Language

**BICS**

**Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills**
- conversational, social, everyday language
- fluency takes 1-3 years
- often includes a ‘silent period’

**CALP**

**Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency**
- school, textbook, academic language
- takes a minimum of five years to develop even an intermediate fluency; takes a whole lifetime to develop fully
Bilingualism

- The Benefits of a Bilingual Brain
Program Benefits

Proven Benefits:
- Acquire proficiency in immersion language
- Learn academic content
- Enhance cognitive skills: flexibility, attention, memory, problem solving
- Prepare to compete in a global community
- Develop academic success in Spanish and English
- Develop bilingual/biliteracy in Spanish and English
- Develop an appreciation of other cultures
Assessment and Accountability

• Students are assessed in language of instruction (Spanish) and report cards are based on language of instruction

• State English language development testing for English Language Learners (ELPAC)

• CAASPP Standardized Testing (Grades 3-6)
Pathway to Biliteracy

Our dual language immersion students have the opportunity to graduate from high school with the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Our sixth graders have the opportunity to demonstrate their progress on this pathway by earning the Exceptional Biliteracy Award:

- Score of 3 Standard Met or Exceeded in grade 5 on SBAC Exam in English Language Arts, OR
- Earn grade of 3 or higher on the English Reading portion of the second trimester Report Card in grade 6
- Age-appropriate proficiency in target second language demonstrated through:
  - Completing a standards-based essay in the target second language
  - Creating and delivering a standards-based oral presentation in the target second language
Parent Responsibilities

- Students will participate in the program from kindergarten through sixth grades
- Develop an understanding of dual language immersion education
- Read with your child in his or her native language for 20-30 minutes daily
- Encourage use of target language (Spanish) outside of school
- Provide community support through participating in cultural events whenever possible
Registration

To register for the BUSD Dual Language Immersion Program go to the BUSD website:

www.bUSD.k12.ca.us

Click: Registration

All information is posted on the website and available at each elementary school.