

# NNPS Dual Language IMMERSION

Newport News Public Schools is pleased to offer an exciting program housed at Saunders elementary school and Watkins Early Childhood Center: Dual Language Immersion (DLI). The program is open to pre-K and kindergarten students that are zoned for Palmer or Saunders elementary schools, and transportation is provided from Palmer zone to Saunders. The school district's DLI program offers students instruction in English and Spanish. Once accepted into the program, students can continue through middle and high school.

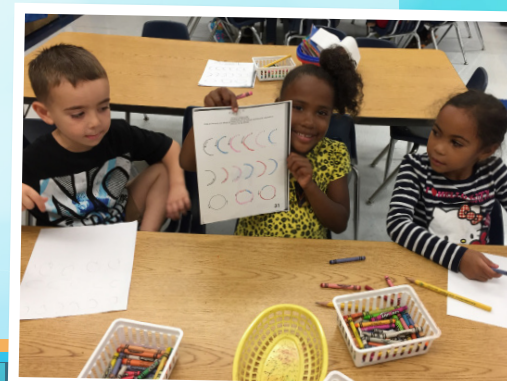
Each school offers DLI classes for students entering the program in pre-K or kindergarten, as well as classes for students continuing in the program. Half of the students in each class are English speaking students and half are native Spanish speaking students. Students receive instruction in English for some subjects and in Spanish for others.

One class begins the school day learning in English with one teacher as the other class begins the day learning in Spanish. At the midpoint of the day, students switch classrooms and teachers, and continue learning in the other language.

Because the students in each class come from two language backgrounds, they learn cooperatively and assist one another as they develop proficiency in their second language. As a result, native English speakers will develop high levels of oral and written proficiency in Spanish, and English language learners will develop oral and written proficiency at a quicker pace than in traditional English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

The dual language program will grow over time, and new DLI classes will be added at each grade level through elementary, middle and high school. Students at the designated middle and high schools will take higher level Spanish language classes as well as courses in other subjects that are taught in Spanish.

The DLI program is open to all families with pre-K or kindergarten students zoned for Palmer and Saunders elementary schools. Interested families should complete a DLI application and return it to the School Board Office, Watkins ECC, or Saunders elementary school. Applications are available online or from schools. Students will be selected through a lottery system to maintain a 50-50 balance of English and Spanish speakers, and families will be notified of acceptance to the program by mail.



## WHAT IS DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION?

Dual language immersion is a form of enrichment education in which students are taught in two languages.

Newport News Public Schools uses a 50/50 two-way DLI model, in which students spend 50% of the time learning literacy skills and other subjects in English and the other 50% in Spanish. Half of the students in each class are English speaking students and half are native Spanish speaking students. All students receive instruction in both English and Spanish to develop proficiency in both languages. Subjects taught in Spanish may vary from year to year.

The DLI program is built around the NNPS curriculum and meets all state Standards of Learning. Students receive instruction in either English or Spanish in all subjects (reading, math, science and social studies as well as art, music and PE).

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DLI?

Students participating in the DLI program will have the benefit of learning a second language while enriching their native language. Students will develop full oral and reading and writing proficiency in two languages.

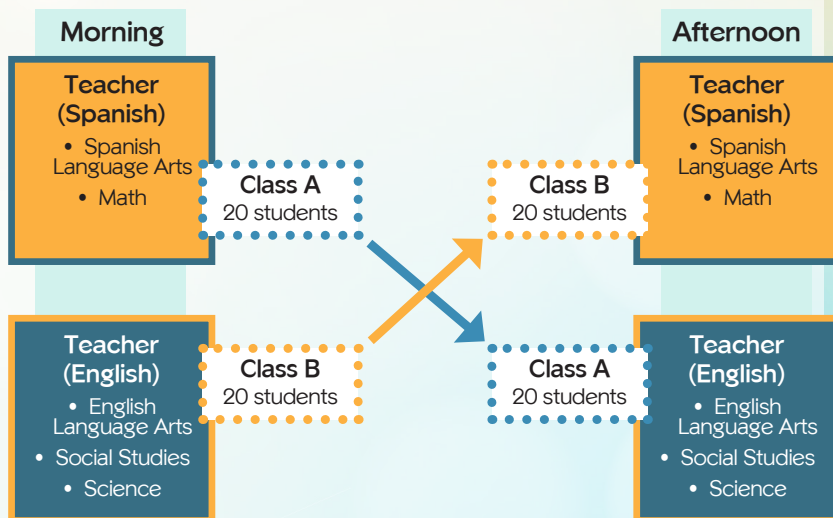
DLI programs beginning in elementary school are considered one of the most effective ways for students to become truly bilingual, biliterate and bicultural by the time they graduate from high school. Dual language students also expand their worldviews, and their knowledge of and respect for the customs and experiences of others.

## WHAT WILL A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?

Each participating school offers at least two DLI classes at each grade of the program. One class begins the school day learning in English with one teacher as the other class begins the day learning in Spanish. At the midpoint of the day, students switch classrooms and teachers, and continue learning in the other language. The pre-K program at Watkins may be self-contained.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

Eligibility is limited to kindergarten students zoned for Palmer or Saunders elementary schools, and pre-K students at Watkins ECC who are zoned for Palmer or Saunders. Students will be selected through a lottery to maintain a 50-50 balance of English and Spanish speakers, and may be screened for kindergarten readiness. Families will be notified of acceptance to the program by mail. Additional students may be placed in the program on a space-available basis.



## HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE DLI PROGRAM?

All families with pre-K or kindergarten students zoned for Palmer or Saunders who wish to enroll are encouraged to submit an application. Applications are available at Watkins ECC, Palmer and Saunders elementary schools, the Newport News Public Schools Administration Building, and online at [www.nnschools.org/worldlanguage/](http://www.nnschools.org/worldlanguage/).

Applications are due by **May 1, 2018**, and may be returned to the schools (in person or by mail).

