



Being bilingual opens doors!

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”—Nelson Mandela

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Washington Grove Two-Way Immersion Program



*Preparing All Students to
Thrive in their Future*



Washington Grove Two-Way Immersion Model

Two-Way Immersion (TWI) began in Summer 2017 for incoming kindergarteners attending Washington Grove Elementary School. The model has been implemented for all kindergarten classes during the 2017-18 school year, and will move upward throughout the grades each year. By the 2022-2023 school year all grades and all classrooms will follow the TWI Model.

All content instruction (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) is delivered in both program languages. Students spend half of their day learning in the English classroom, the other half of the day learning in the Spanish classroom. Literacy instruction occurs in both languages daily. Other content areas may alternate in the language of instruction; for example, math instruction may occur one week in English, the next week in Spanish. In addition, students in TWI receive Spanish instruction in Art, Media and STEM classes.

As this program continues to grow, Washington Grove teachers and staff will receive ongoing, intensive support, resources, and recommendations from experts. This includes a partnership with the Center for Applied Linguistics, which provides continuous professional development, conducts site visits, and shares feedback on strengths and growth areas for instructional delivery.

Definition and Overview

Two-Way Immersion is an educational model in which students develop high levels of speaking, reading, writing, and listening in English and in Spanish. Teachers deliver the same academic content and standards (MCPS Curriculum) as traditional classroom teachers, while providing instruction in two languages.

Ideally Two-Way Immersion classes are comprised of a fairly equal balance of native English-speaking students and native Spanish-speaking students. Native speakers of each language serve as fluent peer models of the language.

The students will typically receive lessons from two teachers; one providing academic instruction in English, and the other providing academic instruction in Spanish. Teachers are native or near-native speakers of the target language.

Goals of the Program

The goals of the program include:

- ▲ To develop bilingualism and biliteracy in English and in Spanish
- ▲ To develop academic success in English and Spanish
- ▲ To develop positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors

In a Two-Way Immersion Program:

- ▲ students receive 50% of their content instruction in English and 50% in Spanish to ensure that both languages have equal status;
- ▲ students develop fluency in a second language while continuing to build literacy in their home language;
- ▲ students develop greater understanding, tolerance, appreciation, and respect for other languages and culture.

Long-Term Benefits

- ▲ Benefits to students who participate in Two-Way Immersion programs include:
- ▲ Students realize more economic opportunities as fluent bilinguals
- ▲ Students will have an advantage in their college and career readiness, and will be better able to compete in the increasing global economy
- ▲ Language minority students perform better academically when they receive instruction in their native language
- ▲ Language majority students (English speakers) achieve grade-level or above grade-level success while receiving instruction in a second language and while becoming proficient in a second language
- ▲ Students in Two-Way Immersion programs do as well or better on standardized English achievement tests as their peers
- ▲ Students who are fluent in two or more languages tend to demonstrate better impulse control, increased attention span, and better mental agility

“Bilingualism is an experience that shapes our brain for a lifetime.”—Gigi Luk

