

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Attend orientations offered at the schools. Please refer to the Elementary Handbook or apsva.us/school-options/ for specific dates.
- Visit us! Families may visit the schools offering immersion to see how the day is structured. Please contact the schools directly to set up an appointment.
 - » Claremont: (703) 228-2500
 - » Key: (703) 228-4210
 - » Gunston: (703) 228-6900
 - » Wakefield: (703) 228-6700
- Contact the World Languages Office. We welcome questions and input. Call us at (703) 228-6097 M-F from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Visit the APS Website for general program information: www.apasva.us/worldlanguages
- Learn more about oral proficiency targets on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages website at www.actfl.org



LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE...

- Enables students to interact and communicate with others while gaining a greater understanding of and respect for different cultures.
- Empowers students to become multilingual and multicultural resources for American and international businesses.
- Strengthens critical thinking skills through problem solving, conceptualizing, and reasoning.
- Enhances the ability to see connections between the various disciplines.
- Provides a competitive edge in career choices and in professional learning for staff.
- Offers language enrichment opportunities for students whose heritage language is not English.
- Provides students with a sense of personal satisfaction and enjoyment in their ability to communicate with people from other cultures.

Did you know?

Research shows that immersion students outperform peers. "Most fully proficient bilinguals outperform monolinguals in the areas of divergent thinking, pattern recognition, and problem solving, in addition to outperforming their monolingual peers on assessments in reading."

University of Minnesota Center for Advanced Research and Language Acquisition



Arlington
Public
Schools

Dual Language Immersion Program

*Cultivating a Lifelong Love
of Language Learning*



World Languages Office

WHAT IS DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION?

- Teaching and learning the core APS curriculum through the lens of two languages
- Integrating heritage Spanish and English speakers for 50/50 academic instruction in two languages
- Developing fluency in another language while continuing to build literacy in a student's home language
- Cultivating a lifelong love for language learning
- Motivating students to develop cross-cultural awareness and understanding

GOALS

- Develop Bilingualism and Biliteracy in English and Spanish, while learning the core APS curriculum
- Promote high academic achievement for all students
- Foster cross-cultural competency and caring supportive relationships



WHERE IS DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION AVAILABLE?

- Claremont Immersion Elementary School
- Francis Scott Key Elementary School
- Gunston Middle School
- Wakefield High School

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Elementary Immersion is available to all students countywide at Key or Claremont, depending on place of residence.
- Point of entry is Kindergarten and 1st grade. Students entering after 2nd grade are evaluated along specific guidelines for Spanish fluency in all language domains.
- In Middle and High School, students coming from schools other than Key or Claremont may also be admitted to the program. A placement test is required.

“ One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way. ”

– Frank Smith

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the differences between the Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) and the Immersion Program?

In an immersion program, students develop high levels of biliteracy while learning the core curriculum. In contrast, in a FLES class, the focus is basic oral communication skills in Spanish and the language itself is the subject of instruction. FLES students spend 60-90 minutes per week learning Spanish as an additional language. In immersion, instructional time in Spanish is over 13 hours per week. Immersion students develop higher competency and literacy in Spanish because, in addition to learning Spanish through content, they receive daily Spanish Language Arts instruction.

What specialized training do Immersion teachers have?

Immersion classroom teachers are required to hold a Virginia teacher's license in elementary education. At the secondary level, teachers are certified in the subject area they teach (Spanish, Social Studies, or Science).

What are the options for Spanish study at Wakefield High School (grades 9-12)?

- *Spanish Immersion 9
- *Intensified Immersion Biology
- *Immersion Econ and Personal Finance
- *Intensified Immersion Chemistry
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Spanish Literature
- Senior Project in Spanish
- Advance Studies of Spanish
- Spanish 5
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers
- *DELE Exam (Certificate of Spanish as a Foreign Language), the official accreditation of fluency in Spanish

**Only offered to Immersion students*

