

Dear APS Immersion School Community—

I would like to share some updates with you on our Dual Language Immersion program. You may know that APS is continuing to develop the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP) framework (www.apsva.us/engage/prek-adult-instructional-programs-and-pathways/). The IPP process will include visioning for our Dual Language Immersion program, scheduled to begin in February for completion by early 2022.

APS Immersion Visioning Process

As APS is finalizing its World Languages evaluation report in February, which includes our Dual Language Immersion program, we feel this is a good time to revisit the program's goals and vision. We are excited to begin this inclusive and collaborative process. The visioning process is being led by the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) World Languages Office, and Dual Language Immersion principals with support from Department of Planning and Evaluation.

We will be working together with a prominent leader in the national immersion community, Rosa Molina, Executive Director of the Association of Two-Way Dual Language Education (ATDLE). In the past five years, Ms. Molina has helped lead more than 30 visioning processes across the nation for immersion programs like ours. She is highly experienced and will be an integral part of the APS visioning process. We are fortunate to have her guidance and expertise as we seek to strengthen our excellent immersion program. In addition, the visioning process will include the Office of English Language Learners, Office of Equity and Excellence, APS Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Arron Gregory, immersion staff, PTAs and families of our immersion schools as well as APS advisory committees including the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) and its World Languages subcommittee.

This comprehensive process will take time; we expect to share more information over the next few months and form a task force later this Spring that will be comprised of APS staff and community members. We will provide updates and opportunities for input throughout the process before presenting final recommendations in early 2022. We seek to understand how this program is working, identify challenges, and consider adjustments to further strengthen APS's dual language immersion program and prepare our students to be career and college ready. Additionally, the broader IPP process may result in related recommendations to be shared with the immersion visioning team.

Operational Changes for Immersion Elementary Schools

The review and visioning process comes at a time of change, as the Key immersion program starts a new chapter with its move to the Arlington Traditional site in 2021-22. We recognize that families have questions about any potential changes to the instructional model, the immersion feeder school structure, transportation, the program's size, and opportunities for growth, among other topics. APS is taking a thoughtful and considered approach to these questions, with decisions about operational planning following the direction established by our instructional leaders.

Upcoming Engagement Opportunity: Joint Claremont/Key PTA meeting on Thursday, January 14 (7 p.m.)

[Join Zoom Meeting Here](#)

- Meeting ID: 875 2525 2226
- Passcode: 830581
- or Dial: 1 301 715 8592

- For simultaneous interpretation in Spanish:
 - Dial: 877-903-2255
 - Then enter Conference ID: 5558025

At this meeting, we will review some operational changes that will affect Key and Claremont for the 2021-22 school year and go through the process and timeline for the dual language immersion visioning process. Following the meeting, we will send out details about the visioning process and operational changes, as well as a link to the recorded meeting.

We are excited about this Dual Language Immersion visioning process and will soon share more information; to stay up to date, visit [the APS Engage Immersion Visioning webpage](#). Also, I encourage you to follow [the development of the IPP](#) and share your input in this process. Please send any questions and comments you have to engage@apsva.us.

Sincerely,

Bridget Loft
Asst. Superintendent, Dept. of Teaching and Learning