

Where can I learn more about Immersion ?

- Parents are strongly encouraged to visit the Immersion schools in Arlington 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
- The World Languages Office staff welcomes parents' questions and input. Please call us at (703) 228-6097 or visit the APS website at www.apsva.us
- The Center for Applied Linguistics offers a wealth of resources about Immersion education. Please visit their website at www.cal.org
- For general information about foreign language learning, including oral proficiency targets, please visit the website of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages at www.actfl.org

The benefits (of learning a foreign language) to society are many. Americans fluent in other languages improve global communication, enhance our competitiveness abroad, and maintain our political and security interests.

(U.S. General Accounting Office, 2002)

Learning another language...

- Enables students to **interact and communicate with others** while gaining a greater understanding of and respect for the cultural perspectives, practices, and products of different cultures.
- Enables 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**.
- Facilitates the **acquisition of subsequent languages**.
- Provides a **competitive edge in career choices** and in professional development.
- 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. *(New Jersey Department of Education)*

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Arlington
Public
Schools

Two-Way Immersion Program

World Languages Office



What is Immersion about?

- Maintaining proficiency in the native language in addition to developing high levels of literacy in the second language.
- A dual language program (Spanish/English) where native speakers of English and Spanish speakers are integrated for academic instruction the entire day.
- Learning a second language through the study of content in the target language.
- Cultivating a lifelong love for language learning.
- Motivating students to develop cross-cultural awareness and understanding.

Two-Way Immersion Program Goals

- To develop high levels of proficiency in the native language and in a second language through content instruction.
- To develop high levels of literacy in Spanish and English.
- To promote high academic achievement in the content areas in both languages.
- To develop cross-cultural competence.

Where is the Immersion Program available?

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

What are the entry guidelines?

- The Immersion Program is available to all students countywide at Key and 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 Middle School, students coming from schools other than Key or Claremont may also be admitted to the program. A placement test is required.

Two-way Immersion Proficiency Targets

End of 3rd grade: Novice Low - Novice Mid

End of 5th grade: Novice High - Intermediate Low

End of 8th grade: Intermediate Low - Intermediate High

Proficiency Targets based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) performance guidelines.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the differences between the Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) and the Immersion Program? The focus of FLES instruction is basic oral communication skills in Spanish. FLES students spend between 2 and 2.25 hours per week learning Spanish as a second language. Immersion students develop higher competency in Spanish because, in addition to learning Spanish through content, they receive daily Spanish Language Arts instruction. Instructional time in Spanish is over 13 hours per week. In addition to becoming functionally proficient, Immersion students are also expected to develop high levels of literacy in Spanish.

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 I and II Courses and AP Language and AP Literature (I and II) courses
- Completion of independent study in Spanish
- Completion of Senior Project in Spanish
- Option to take the DELE (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language), the official accreditation of the degree of fluency of the Spanish Language.