



## Program Goals

- Close the gap in opportunity and achievement between Native English speakers and students for whom English is a not their first language
- Achieve Academic excellence, strengthen biliteracy, multilingual skills and biculturalism
- Foster cross-cultural relationships and experiences
- Prepare students to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy upon High School graduation



## Program Benefits

- Research suggests that children who have rich and early exposure to two languages are cognitively more advanced than their monolingual peers (Petitto, 2002)
- Developing proficiency in two languages is associated positively with greater cognitive flexibility and awareness of language, which contributes to academic achievement” (Cummins, 1999)
- “Knowledge learned through one language paves the way for knowledge acquisition in the second language” (Lindholm-Leary, 2007)



# Dual Language Program



**Edwards Elementary**  
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[www.newberg.k12.or.us/district/  
dual-language-program](http://www.newberg.k12.or.us/district/dual-language-program)

# How does the program work?

The Dual Language program is available by lottery to incoming Kindergarteners in the Newberg School District.

Students receive almost all academic instruction in Spanish during their first few years of school and then are taught in both English and Spanish in upper elementary.

It takes most people 5-7 years to become fluent in a second language. In a Dual Language program, this means that the first 2-3 years are the most challenging.

All language learners go through a “silent period” where they absorb the new language, but aren’t ready to speak it themselves. This is followed by a period in which the learners understand much more than they can communicate.

Families often worry during the first few years of a child’s Dual Language education that the child is falling behind in his or her home language and not really learning the second language.

However, these silent and early production periods are natural for the student, just as they are for toddlers learning to speak their first language. Once children are ready, they will interact socially and academically in both of their languages.

**Because achieving high academic levels in reading, writing and speaking in two languages can take 5-7 years, or more, a long-term commitment from families is important.**

## Q&A

### **How can I help my child if I don’t speak the language taught in school?**

- Read with your child in your home language.
- Check out Spanish books/bilingual books at your public library
- Allow your child to watch YouTube - appropriate channels in Spanish (songs, books, shows)
- Download Spanish learning apps on home iPads

### **We speak Spanish at home. How will my child learn English?**

Your child will learn English in:

- Biliteracy development by making a language bridge between English and Spanish
- Certain academic subjects in English in upper grades.