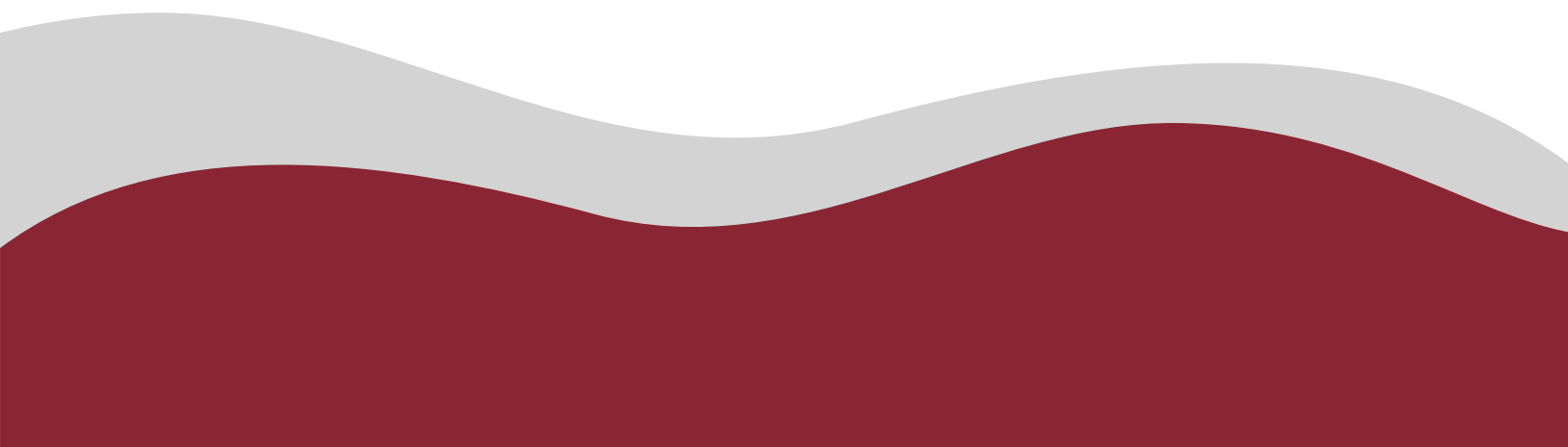




**Spanish  
Immersion  
Guidelines  
2021-2022**





## **Spanish Immersion Campuses**

Mary Lou Hartman Elementary  
7203 Woodlake Parkway  
San Antonio, TX 78218  
(210) 564-1520

Wortham Oaks Elementary  
5710 Carriage Cape  
San Antonio, TX 78261  
(210)945-5750

# Policies and Guidelines

## Eligibility

Students are eligible for the Spanish Immersion program based on the following criteria:

- **Spring 2021 Criteria:**
  - End-of-year score must reflect on or above grade level in Reading subsets on TX KEA.
  - DRA reading score of 6 or above.
- Students from the home campus will make up 75% of the program with 25% chosen from other elementary schools in JISD.
- At least one parent/guardian will attend the Program Information Meeting during the spring semester in order for their child to be eligible for the selection process. This includes parents who already have children participating in the SIP at JISD.
- Siblings of students accepted into our language programs are eligible to transfer to the current SIP school their sibling attends.

# Selection Process

Students are selected to the Spanish Immersion Programs based on the following selection process:

- All applications shall be submitted by the deadline to the Spanish Immersion Program campus you are directly applying to and will then be compiled for the lottery selection process by feeder pattern. No late applications will be accepted.
- Classroom size shall not exceed 20 students. If more than 20 students applied, lottery selections occur on a scheduled date and will include 75% selected from the home campus and 25% from other JISD schools. Students not selected for the program will be placed on a waitlist in order of lottery drawing.
- Within the first two weeks of the start of school, any withdrawals from the program will be replaced with students on the wait list in order of lottery drawing.

# Transportation

Spanish Immersion is an elective program; therefore, parents will be required to provide transportation for their child if the campus offering the Spanish Immersion program is not their child's home campus.

# Request to Withdraw

Parents and students admitted into the program have made a long-term commitment to remain in the program for its duration. Therefore, requests for withdrawal will only be considered due to extenuating circumstances and may go through a multi-step meeting process including conferences with the Campus Administration and or a representative from Central Office Support Staff.

# Student Behavior and Attendance

Students participating in our Spanish Immersion program must abide by the JISD code of conduct. Students with excessive absences, disruptive, violent, or inappropriate behaviors may be asked to withdraw from the program.

# Spanish Immersion Program

## Overview

- Five-year commitment (1st – 5th grades)
- Quality language instruction in Spanish and English
- Core Instruction in Spanish: 90% in grade 1, with incremental percentage decreases in subsequent grades until they reach 50% in 5th grade.
- 1st grade 90/10 (Spanish/English)
- 2nd grade 80/20 (Spanish/English)
- 3rd grade 70/30 (Spanish/English)
- 4th grade 60/40 (Spanish/English)
- 5th grade 50/50 (Spanish/English)
- Follow grade level state curriculum (Refer to Spanish Immersion curriculum guidelines).
- Fully supported by school district administrators, educators, parents, and community members. Intervention outside of the classroom is not available in Spanish.
- Highly qualified personnel.
- Active parent-school partnership.

# Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What about reading in English for the students learning Spanish as a second language?

A: Your child will transfer reading skills to English once they have learned to read in Spanish.

Encourage reading in English at home in a relaxed and enjoyable manner. Nevertheless, it is very important and expected that you read daily with your child.

Q: Does it matter if no one speaks Spanish at home?

A: This program was designed for children of families who do not speak the second language.

Teachers are aware of this when they send home notices or assign homework. Report cards are issued in English.



Q: Is Spanish Immersion the right choice?

A: One of the first questions often asked by parents is, "Is this the right choice for my child?"

When trying to answer that question, it is important to remember the opportunities that you are offering your child by exposing him or her to another language and culture.

Through the immersion program your child will be provided with the opportunity to develop the ability to communicate freely with persons who speak the immersion language.

Being bilingual may enhance your child's opportunities in the job market and make it easier to learn yet a third

language. Taking part in the immersion program can be an exciting and stimulating

experience for your child. Parents need to consider their personal commitment to

bilingualism.

Q: Are students in immersion programs screened?

A: Reading development in the first language is a strong indicator of the student's success in second language acquisition. Spring 2020 : Students must score at or above grade level on Amplify Reading and/or a DRA score of 6 or better.

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Q: How will I know if my child is a good candidate for the Spanish Immersion Program?

A: While it is believed that children of all ability levels can learn a second language, there is also general consensus that children with serious delays in first language development or auditory processing, auditory memory, or general auditory impairment should not be in an immersion program. These children are faced with larger academic struggles and have greater difficulty in achieving the level of success we would expect of them.

Q: What happens if my child struggles with learning to read in English?

A: The Spanish Immersion Program has unique aspects which may extend the process of identifying a student's learning disability. The most appropriate time to show an academic delay is after one to two years of reading instruction. Since children begin Spanish reading in first grade, the optimal time for the school's child study team to evaluate a child is usually at the beginning of second grade. Therefore, immersion students may not be eligible for some academic support programs until the formal introduction of English reading in the second semester of second grade.

Q: How can parents help?

A: The following tips are helpful tips for supporting your child:

- Encourage your child by telling him/her how proud you are that he/she is learning a second language.
- Do not feel discouraged if, at the beginning, your child cries or seems nervous about this new experience. Some students may experience some stress initially as this can be an overwhelming and exciting program. Parents need to be supportive and understanding of both their child and the teacher during the initial stages. Your child will need some time to adjust to this new challenge. However, if this anxiety continues beyond the first two months, please discuss it with the teacher. By the beginning of October, every child should be over the initial adjustment and be looking forward to going to school.
- When your child gets home, do not be upset if he or she does not feel like telling you all about the day at school. Children take the routines of school for granted and often need a change of subject once they get home.
- Do not expect your child to start speaking the second language after the first few days and do not try to force him or her to do so. Your child will start to use the second language at his or her own individual pace.
- Become acquainted with your child's teacher and program through attending Back-to-School night and other evening events at the school.

- Be actively involved in your child's school.
- Keep informed about immersion education.
- Encourage, but do not force your child to speak the second language at home.
- Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain of the correct expressions or pronunciations. Give your child the benefit of the doubt.
- Do not ask your child to translate. This requires skills not focused on in the Spanish Immersion program.
- Do not give in to the temptation to compare your child's progress to that of the neighbor's children. No two teachers and no two students work at the same rate.
- Teach your child the songs and nursery rhymes that are part of his or her own heritage.
- Read stories to your child in English because English stories will not be heard at school in the beginning years of the immersion program.
- Take advantage of any opportunities to expose your child to the Spanish language and culture(s) outside of the school setting.
- Let your child know that you are pleased with his or her progress.