

McKinney Independent School District

Dual Language
Program
Guidelines/Application

#1 Duvall Street
McKinney, Texas 75071

Dual Language Program Information

MISD is in the second year of Dual Language Implementation. Currently the program is offered at Caldwell Elementary in grades K-1st. The program will move into grade 2 for the 2012-13 school year.

Two-way immersion is a form of dual language that combines students from two language groups while providing instruction in both languages. The (K-1) classes are comprised of approximately one-half native English speakers and one-half native Spanish speakers. Students learn the academic curriculum through both languages simultaneously. In this 50-50 model, students serve as language models for each other, while accelerating their learning.

The primary goal of MISD's dual language program is to allow all students to realize the full benefits of bilingualism which include enhanced cognitive ability, increased academic achievement, heightened multicultural appreciation and understanding, and a competitive edge in the increasingly global society of the 21st century.

Goals of the Program

- High Academic Achievement
- Bilingualism
- Biliteracy
- Multiculturalism

Program Information:

- Implementation began in 2010-11 with Kindergarten students at Caldwell Elementary School.
- One grade level will be added per year as the students progress through grade levels
- Teaching Partnerships established with one Spanish (bilingual) speaking teacher and one English speaking teacher
- Two classes alternate days between the two teachers
- The ratio of Spanish : English speakers in each class will be maintained as close to 50/50 as possible
- Class size are 20-22 students per class
- Languages are separated to benefit all students
- MISD Curriculum will be followed
- Curriculum is enhanced with specific language objectives to accommodate the "second language" need
- Students' reading, writing, and oral language are assessed in Spanish and English
- Grades are based on assessments in the student's dominant language
- Students participate in all district and state assessments
- Recommended parent commitment to the program for 6 years
- All students must be made available for assessment prior to the beginning of school
- Parents do not need to be speak both languages to participate

Enrollment:

- Caldwell Zoned Students receive priority enrollment.
- Transfer students will be chosen through a lottery system
- Transportation is only provided to Caldwell Zoned students who qualify for the service.
- Spanish speaking students zoned for other campuses may apply for open seats through the Transfer Process.
- Older siblings, in grades 3-5, may attend Caldwell if space allows (**a standard school transfer form must be filled out once your name is drawn in the lottery**)
- **TRANSFER APPLICANTS: PLEASE ENROLL AT YOUR ZONED CAMPUS TO ENSURE A SEAT IN KINDERGARTEN THERE. IF YOUR NAME IS DRAWN IN THE LOTTERY YOUR ENROLLMENT INFORMATION WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO CALDWELL**

Contact Information

District Office:

Dr. Stella Uribe, Director of Bilingual/ESL – McKinney ISD
#1 Duvall Street
McKinney, Texas 75069
469-742-4140
suribe@mckinneyisd.net

Campus:

Caldwell Elementary
601 W Louisiana
469-742-5500
http://legacy.mckinneyisd.net/Campuses/school_websites/caldwell/

Caldwell Elementary, Principal: Chris Clark
chclark@mckinneyisd.net /469-742-5575 (office)

Caldwell Elementary, Assistant Principal: Kelly Flowers
kflowers@mckinneyisd.net /469-742-5512 (office)

Frequently Asked Questions From Parents

1. How will kids in this program, who are identified as GT, be served?
Students identified as GT will be served as any other GT student in MISD.
2. When/How will you determine if the program is successful?
Student progress will be monitored consistently, as we currently do, to ensure that all students are successful academically. A program evaluation will be completed at the end of the school year to ensure continued success as implementation moves forward.
3. What texts will be used for Math and Science?
Envision and Investigations for Math, and the MISD curriculum will be utilized in Science. Supplemental resources will be used to enrich the curriculum.
4. When is Spanish offered to MISD students after 5th grade?
Currently, Spanish is offered beginning in 7th grade as an elective course and is offered through 12th grade.
5. Will the program be implemented at other MISD campuses?
The feasibility of that will be determined at the end of the 2011-12 school year.
6. Will students be allowed to use their native language on days they are instructed in their “second” language?
Students will always be allowed to use their language of choice in social settings and emergency situations. However, to fully develop bilingualism the instructional language will be encouraged.
7. Is there a pre-developed program that you are following?
We are utilizing MISD’s curriculum in a Two-Way 50/50 Dual Language Model, which supports simultaneous literacy acquisition. The 50/50 will be accomplished by rotating English and Spanish days for instruction, through the use of teaching partnerships (one English and one Spanish teacher).
8. Once a Kindergartner enrolls in the Dual Language Program at Caldwell, will they be allowed to stay if they move to another attendance zone in MISD?
Yes!
9. If my child is not chosen in the lottery this year, will there be an opportunity to enter the program in 1st grade?
Consideration will be made on a “case-by-case” basis.

10. Where are the statistics from in the research data in your presentation?

Thomas & Collier's 2002 research was the original basis for most of the presentation. They are well-known researchers in the field of dual-language and continue to add more and more research as these programs grow and expand throughout the United States.

11. If a child is accepted as a transfer, will an older sibling be allowed to attend Caldwell?

Older siblings will only be allowed entrance if space allows in grades **3-5**.

12. What happens to new Caldwell Zoned families that have a Kindergarten student also have older students who cannot participate in the program?

Depending on the year of enrollment, the older student would more than likely be able to attend typical classes at Caldwell. If not, a transfer would be granted to a nearby campus.

13. If an older sibling of a participant in the program is accepted on a typical transfer, will they be allowed to remain at Caldwell through 5th Grade.

Yes.

14. How is homework handled for parents who only speak their student's native language?

Homework that is not in a family's native language will only be sent home when a student can adequately complete it independently or with proper instructions for parents in the native language.

15. How will small group instruction be handled on days when students' instruction is in their second language?

The language of the day will always be followed unless there is a specific instructional need from a student.

16. Will younger siblings of transfer students be guaranteed a spot when they begin Kinder?

It is our goal to keep families of students intact as they begin the dual language program. Due to changes in enrollment and program demand, transfers will not be guaranteed.

17. How current is the data from the California research used in the presentation?

The data presented from the California research is based on a longitudinal study that followed students in various ESL programs, traditional one way bilingual programs (both late and early exit models), regular academic programs, 90/10 and 50/50 two way dual language immersion programs from 1990-2002. The particular slide we presented showed the difference in academic performance of students who participated in these programs. While their participation in the dual language programs (both the 50/50 and the 90/10) ended at the end of 5th grade, their academic progress was still measured as exceeding students in all other academic programs through grade 11.

18. Do we have data on dual language in Texas Schools?

There is data to show the effectiveness of dual language in Texas schools as well. There are additional research studies that focus on dual language programs in Texas available on the following website:

www.texastwoway.org

19. How does class size in dual compare to all other classes?

Ideal class size in the dual language program will be 18 or 20 so an even number of Spanish and English students can be accommodated. Of course, enrollment determines actual class size. The limit will be 22 per class. The limit in non-dual classes is currently 19.

20. How will content be divided by two teachers?

The content will not be divided by teachers. Both teachers will share the content and plan closely together to ensure students progress adequately through the curriculum.

21. Is there a possibility for strategic abandonment of the program for the second year?

MISD is committed to continuing this program at Caldwell.

22. Is Caldwell the pilot campus for this program? What are plans for future campuses implementing the program?

The feasibility of this will be determined at a later date. Caldwell is a Pilot Campus for this program.

23. How will days be divided between two teachers?

It will be a rotation of every other instructional day in the partner languages. A typical schedule evenly divides the instruction (1/2 English/1/2 Spanish) over a ten-day period.

24. Can a retained child participate in the program?

Yes, if the parents support the decision.

Caldwell Dual Language Informational/Enrollment Dates

Two-Way Dual Language Parent Informational Meetings (Caldwell Library)

February 7 6:00-7:30

March 20 6:00-7:30

School/Class Tours (Meet in Caldwell Library)

February 13 9:00-10:00 A.M.

March 22 9:00-10:00 A.M.

Enrollment Dates

February 13th Early Enrollment* begins for Caldwell zoned students only.

April 16th Applications for Dual Language Program (only students who desire to transfer from another campus) are due to Bilingual/ESL office Central Office/# 1 Duvall Street.

April 19th Lottery drawing for transfer application students to participate in Dual Language (space permitting); Students/Families notified of lottery results this week

May 3rd Enrollment* re-opens for all students

*Students currently enrolled at Lawson do not need to be enrolled. Their information will be transferred to our campus in the Fall. A current proof of residency will be required in the Fall.

Parent Informational Meetings for all incoming Caldwell Kinder Parents

May 15, 16, 17 8:30-9:30:00 a.m. at Caldwell Elementary

Student Assessment Dates

July 23-27 Scheduled by appointment, sign up for preferred time at parent meeting in May or by contacting Kelly Flowers at 469.742.5512.

**McKinney Independent School District
Dual Language Program Registration Form 2012-2013**

Name of Student: _____ **Male** ___ **Female** **Birth date:** _____

Grade entering in fall 2012: ___ **K** **Language Dominance:** ___ **Spanish** ___ **English**

Home Address: _____ **City** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone:(____) _____ **Alternative Phone:** (____) _____

Email Address: _____ **Home School:** _____

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Guardian: _____

We understand the information below regarding the Dual Language Program in McKinney ISD, and we are interested in continuing with the registration process for our child:

Dual language is a bilingual education model that consistently uses two languages for instruction and communication, with a balanced number of students from two language groups who are integrated for instruction. Dual language promotes cross-cultural understanding and acceptance.

The goal of dual language instruction is bilingualism and biliteracy for all students in appropriate grade-level content. The level of bilingualism and biliteracy developed through dual language are usually not attained through other bilingual or foreign language instruction models. This level of biliteracy is achieved because:

- a. o Literacy and content instruction are provided in both languages.
- b. o Only one language is used during each period of instruction.
- c. o Equal status is given to both languages.
- d. o District curriculum objectives are used within Dual Language classrooms.

*A lottery system will be used for student selection should more students indicate interest in the program than the number of available spaces.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to the Central Administration Office, Attention: Dr. Stella Uribe, #1 Duvall Street, McKinney, TX 75069 by April 16, 2012. The Dual Language Lottery will be conducted the week of April 19th and parent notification will occur the same week the lottery is conducted.