

## **What is Dual Language Immersion and Other FAQs? 2016-2017**

1. **What is the Dual Language Immersion Program (DLIP) at WNP?** The focus of WNP's program is to promote biliteracy in English and Spanish and positive cross-cultural attitudes in our community and world. Students will receive instruction in English and Spanish throughout the school day. Each classroom will consist of native English speakers and native Spanish speakers.
2. **What does it look like?** There will be two classrooms participating in the DLIP at WNP. Students will receive instruction in English from their classroom teacher. An additional teacher will "push-in" both classrooms to deliver Spanish instruction. Both teachers will be working with students at all times. For example, the English teacher will be giving a mini-lesson in English. When it is time for small group instruction, the English teacher and the Spanish teacher will be working in small groups in a targeted language on Reading. During math, the Spanish teacher will be giving a lesson in Spanish. Both the Spanish teacher and the English teacher will be working in small groups in a targeted language in Math.
3. **What are the longterm benefits of acquiring a second language?** Your child will have strong skills that allow him/her to communicate in more than one language when he/she graduates high school. A child formally learning his/her heritage language while using those language skills to successfully transfer skills to learning another language promotes and supports biliteracy. Your child will also develop a cross-cultural appreciation for their community and world. Additionally new studies indicate that bilingual learning environments improve cognitive skills such as problem solving and improve social abilities of children.
4. **Will my child fall behind his/her peers in academic learning while acquiring a second language, and if so, how much?** Research shows that students in dual language immersion programs eventually outperform students in general education programs when effectively implemented. West Noble recognizes that this may take more time but believes that students will eventually reap the benefits shared in number 3. If your child is in need of additional academic support, WNP has an action plan to support him/her in whichever language the student does not demonstrate mastery in. This intervention is provided every 3-4 weeks depending on the individual needs of your child. This action plan is available to all students at WNP, not just those participating in the DLIP and may also include enrichment if your child has mastered the content.
5. **How do I enroll my child into the program?** This program is provided to students whose parents choose this option for their child. Parents can complete an enrollment form at registration, or obtain a form from WNP or online. The form must be submitted by July 25 in order for the child to be considered for the program.
6. **When will the DLIP begin?** Our goal is to begin the program by January of 2017. Our DLIP team will be preparing for the program and learning alongside the community in the summer and fall to provide a model that is rooted in research and implemented effectively. Students that are placed in the program will start the year with their core Kindergarten English teacher to make the transition as less disruptive as possible. Their teacher and classmates will not change, we will only be adding the

[http://hepg.org/hel-home/issues/27\\_2/helarticle/dual-language-programs-on-the-rise#home](http://hepg.org/hel-home/issues/27_2/helarticle/dual-language-programs-on-the-rise#home)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/the-superior-social-skills-of-bilinguals.html?\\_r=2&WT.mc\\_id=SmartBriefs-Newsletter&WT.mc\\_ev=click&ad-keywords=smartbriefs](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/the-superior-social-skills-of-bilinguals.html?_r=2&WT.mc_id=SmartBriefs-Newsletter&WT.mc_ev=click&ad-keywords=smartbriefs)

<https://www.viflearn.com/component/content/article/107-dual-language-immersion-frequently-asked-questions?Itemid=101>

direct instruction in Spanish at that time. If we feel we are prepared to make the transition earlier, we will do that, but we want to ensure that students, teachers, and families have the support they need to be successful.

7. **How many students will the program serve?** Space is limited so it is not a guaranteed service. If more students are enrolled than the program can serve, WNP will have a lottery for the program. The program will be able to serve approximately 44 students.
8. **How can I help my child at home if I do not speak another language?** The most important way to help your child is to read no matter what language is used in the home. This is a practice endorsed by all WNP teachers. Students in all classes will bring books home to read with the family. Reading in any language models strong reading skills such as fluency, building vocabulary, and comprehension. This will also support language acquisition. Your child may bring home a book to read that is in a different language used in the home. That is ok! Have fun reading the text together however you can, even if it is reading the pictures. Your child will love to teach you new words in a different language. WNP's DLIP will be family-centered. Staff will host parent-involvement events to provide additional ways that families can support learning and seek to utilize community resources as much as possible.
9. **How can I help support the DLIP?** WN will utilize the summer and the fall to learn as much as we can about dual language immersion. We have done a lot of research already, but we want the program to be designed to meet the needs of our community. Your feedback will help us shape and define the program as we progress. Your child's teacher may reach out to you to help as a volunteer or provide a skill to help your child and their peers learn and grow. Attending as many of the school events as possible will also be helpful as there will be specific meetings regarding the DLIP.
10. **What happens when my child goes to 1st grade?** Our goal is to expand the DLIP each year through 4th grade and possibly through 6th grade as funding allows. Your child would continue participating in the DLIP in first grade unless you decide that the DLIP is not the best fit for your child.
11. **If my child is not selected this year, will they have the opportunity to participate in later years?** New students may be admitted in upper grades depending on space available in the program, Spanish language proficiency, and/or English literacy skills.

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