

Dual Language at Hodge Elementary

What is a two-way dual language program?

A two-way dual language programs integrates native English speaking students with native Spanish speaking students for academic instruction, which is presented in both languages. Our program is divided by content: Math-English; Science/Social Studies-Spanish; Language Arts-native language until second grade.

Is the Dual Language Program Right for Your Family?

The DL program truly incorporates the entire family. Students learn language during the day, while parents are encouraged to learn language by night.

Your child is a good candidate for the dual language if he or she:

- Is developmentally on target in his or her native language.
- Expresses an interest in different people, places, and things.
- Wants to become fluent in Spanish and English.

The program is a good fit for families who:

- Value different cultures – people, art, history, etc.
- Support learning a second language and encourage practicing the language.
- Are willing to commit to six years of program participation.

Will my child become a fluent Spanish speaker?

Probably not. Most learners need much more than two hours of exposure to a second language per day in order to become "fluent." Our priority at Hodge is that your child finish fifth grade on level in all content areas in English. The Spanish development is an added bonus. However, your child will have a strong foundation to continue language learning. Most students who complete six years of the dual language program will likely be able to read and write in their second language at a proficient level, and they will be able to speak at an intermediate level of Spanish with a native-like accent. If you choose to expose your child to Spanish at home and in other settings, then he or she will likely become fluent very quickly.

How are students identified for the dual language program?

Students are selected in accordance with DISD policy. Families who are interested and have self-identified as a "good fit" for the program will complete an application. Hodge DL administrators will review the applications, conference with families as needed, and then select students based on a lottery system. Students will be identified for the program in Kindergarten or First Grade, within the first 12 weeks of school.

What will my child's day look like in a dual language classroom?

While the schedule may vary based on student needs, in general a Kindergarten child will begin the day with their native-language teacher for Language Arts. For the middle portion of the day, your child will be integrated with their second-language peers for Math (taught by the English-speaking teacher), and Science/Social Studies (taught by the Spanish-speaking teacher), as well as "language of the day" activities, lunch, and recess. Your child will end the day with their native-language teacher.

Dual Language at Hodge Elementary

Name of parents: _____

Name of student: _____

Age and birthday of student: _____

Why are you interested in the dual language program at Hodge?

Is dual language the right fit for your family? (Check all that apply.)

- My child speaks English well most of the time.
- My child enjoys learning.
- My child persists when given difficult tasks.
- My child can count to 20.
- My child can repeat a 5-7 word sentence exactly as I say it. (i.e. "The boys runs to the store.")
- We enjoy learning together as a family.
- We commit to attending Hodge and staying in the program through 5th grade.
- We commit to honoring other beliefs and cultures in our home.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

We will notify you within the first 12 weeks of school regarding your child's application. Welcome to Hodge! If you have additional questions please call (940-369-2800) or e-mail one of our dual language coordinators:

Sarah Cruz- scruz2@dentonisd.org

Zulma Mojica- zmojica@dentonisd.org

Patty Jensen- pjensen@dentonisd.org