

## SPANISH DUAL LANGUAGE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

### GRADES 1-5

Students who were enrolled in the Dual Language Program in kindergarten will be given priority to continue in grades 1-5.

If space becomes available from the time kindergarten begins through the first semester of 1st grade, Kent School District will consider filling the Dual Language Program with students from the waitlist.

If space becomes available from the second semester of 1st grade through 5th grade, the school principal will determine admission in the Dual Language Program.

### SECONDARY

The Dual Language Program is available at Mill Creek Middle School and Kent-Meridian High School.

Students who wish to continue building their bilingualism, biliteracy, and multiculturalism may enroll in middle school courses in Spanish in one or more content areas such as math, social studies, language arts, science, or others as available.

#### Secondary Dual Language courses are open to:

- Students currently enrolled in the KSD Dual Language Program for 5th grade at Kent, Neely-O'Brien, and Scenic Hill elementary schools, or Mill Creek Middle School.
- Students who will attend or would like to transfer to Mill Creek or Kent-Meridian and are fluent and literate in Spanish at the intermediate-mid level or higher on a Spanish language proficiency assessment.
- Students transferring from Spanish/English dual language programs in other districts.

## KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY PROCESS

### OUR LOTTERY PROCESS

Each spring, in collaboration with our Multilingual Education department and dual language schools, the annual Dual Language lottery is conducted by the KSD Student & Family Support Services team.

This weighted lottery is used to determine student placement in the Dual Language Program for kindergarten based on priority groups.

Two separate waiting lists are established to ensure the program is evenly filled with students who speak Spanish as their home language and students who speak a different home language.

- A waiting list for students who speak Spanish as their home language.
- A waiting list for students who speak any other language.

#### Students are placed on each waitlist in the following order:

- Students identified for Multilingual services.
- Siblings of students currently enrolled in the KSD Dual Language Program.
- Students living within the Dual Language elementary school boundaries.
- Students living within the KSD boundary.
- Students living outside of the KSD boundary.

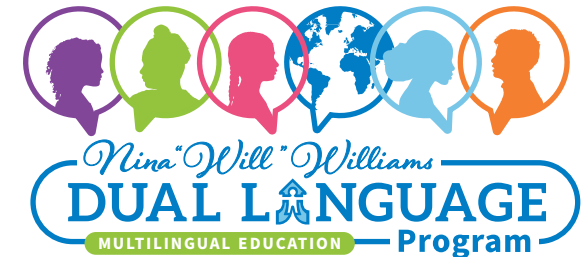
For Kindergarten Dual Language Lottery Application, please visit [www.kent.k12.wa.us/DualLanguageLottery](http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/DualLanguageLottery)

For additional dual language resources, please visit OSPI Dual Language Education and Resources at: [bit.ly/OSPIDualLanguageEducationAndResources](http://bit.ly/OSPIDualLanguageEducationAndResources)

**MULTILINGUAL  
EDUCATION**

**KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**MISSION**  
Empowering a bilingual and biliterate  
community of global citizens and scholars

**VISION**  
Committed to academic excellence through  
the power of languages and cultures

## BENEFITS OF DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

- Higher academic performance than their peers who are learning only in English
- Greater cognitive development in mental flexibility, creativity, and critical thinking
- High levels of proficiency in both languages of instruction
- Positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors
- Enhanced career opportunities

## OUR DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

- The Kent School District Dual Language Program serves as a model for other programs in Washington State.
- Our 50/50 two-way Spanish/English program currently serves nearly 1,000 emergent bilingual students in kindergarten through 5th grade at Kent, Neely-O'Brien and Scenic Hill elementary schools, Mill Creek Middle School, and Kent-Meridian High School.
- Our Dual Language Program has been serving students since 2013 and is planned to continue through 12th grade. Our students are on their way to becoming fully bilingual, biliterate, and culturally aware global citizens who will graduate ready for post-secondary education, careers, and life in either or both languages.
- Each classroom is made up of approximately 50% students who speak Spanish as their home language and 50% who speak a different language as their home language. This class grouping allows for cooperative interaction to facilitate Spanish and English language acquisition.
- Small group collaboration where students are speaking both Spanish and English will result in increased learning for all students.
- In grades kindergarten through 5th, students will receive literacy instruction in both Spanish and English.

## FEATURES OF A SPANISH DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

### **Bilingual students generally demonstrate great academic gains**

Research shows that students in language immersion programs can develop strong proficiency in both languages and that students receive a variety of cognitive benefits, such as greater creative thinking, mental flexibility and the ability to think abstractly.

### **Students have the opportunity to achieve true bilingualism and biliteracy in Spanish and English**

Students learn languages more easily at an early age. Immersing and instructing students in the second language provides an effective vehicle for students to learn to speak, read and write proficiently in both languages by sixth grade. High school graduates who qualify may earn the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy.

### **Students develop cultural literacy as well as enhanced cognitive skills**

Students in bilingual programs benefit from the ability to communicate with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.



## PARENT PARTICIPATION & COMMITMENT

To ensure achievement and success, it is necessary for families to commit to the program throughout their student's academic career. It takes at least 6 years to develop true bilingualism. Our program continues through secondary.

Active parent support is extremely important to the long-term success of students participating in the Dual Language Program.

Program benefits are achieved when students remain in the program for its duration. Helping your student with homework, attending parent conferences and providing feedback increases the likelihood of student success. Immersing your scholar in your culture and the many cultures of the Spanish-speaking world and the language outside of school is key.

## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- Center for Applied Linguistics: [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org)
- Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition: [www.carla.umn.edu](http://www.carla.umn.edu)
- National Association for Bilingual Educations: [www.nabe.org](http://www.nabe.org)
- New Mexico Association for Bilingual Educations: [www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net)

