

## Advantages of Knowing Two Languages

- Knowing two languages has a positive effect on the intellectual development of the child.
- Knowing two languages enriches the cognitive development of the child.
- Students develop flexibility in knowledge and sensitivity to the languages;
- Students improve their understanding of their native language ;
- Students learn to understand and appreciate other cultures and people of other countries.
- Students tend to take advanced language courses in high school.
- Students have more job opportunities knowing two or more languages.

### Comal ISD Success Stories

*"I think being in a Spanish Immersion class is a great learning experience even though it has many challenges."*

*Fifth Grader in Spanish Immersion*

## Eligibility & Registration

Students are eligible based on the following criteria:

- Students must attend a CISD kindergarten to be eligible for the program in 1st grade.
- Parents attend a mandatory information meeting. Applications are handed out during these meetings.
- Students must score a DRA independent level 6 or obtain a Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Rasch UnIT (RIT) score of 177 to qualify.
- Depending on the number of applications, a lottery selection process may take place.

## Spanish Immersion Elementary Schools

**Hoffmann Lane Elementary School**  
4600 FM 306  
New Braunfels, TX 78132  
(830)221-2500

**Rahe Bulverde Elementary School**  
1715 E. Ammann Road  
Bulverde, TX 78163  
(830)221-2998

For more information, a parent or legal guardian must attend one of the Spanish Immersion Recruitment Meetings during Spring. Applications to the program will only be provided at the campus meeting.



**Our children are our future**



**Spanish Immersion Program**

## Goals of the Spanish Immersion Program

- Provide the opportunity to maintain and develop English while simultaneously acquiring proficiency in Spanish
- Prepare students academically to a level equal to or better than grade level in both languages
- Develop high level skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in English and Spanish
- Foster positive attitudes towards speakers of another language and their culture
- Promote leadership ability and positive self-esteem

## Characteristics of the Spanish Immersion Program

- CISD uses a “90/10” model for immersing students in Spanish.
- The teacher uses either English or Spanish language within specified subject areas.
- The program requires a student/parent commitment from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Students enter in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at the start of the year.
- The students are expected to learn from each other and their teacher.
- Active participation between parents and the school is expected.

## Helping your child when you do not know the language of instruction

- Continue to read to and with your child in their first language.
- Listen to your child read at home.
- Maintain close communication with your child’s teacher to be able to help at home.
- Stay in constant communication with your child on the importance of knowing more than one language.
- Look into advanced academics courses and graduation requirements.

## The 90/10 Spanish Immersion Model

| Grade Level           | English Instructional Time | Spanish Instructional Time |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade | 10%                        | 90%                        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | 20%                        | 80%                        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade | 30%                        | 70%                        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 40%                        | 60%                        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 50%                        | 50%                        |

## Benefits of the Spanish Immersion Program

- Within this program, students develop linguistically in Spanish and continue to develop in their dominant language – English.
- Through second language acquisition strategies, students learn the language and the academic subject areas to ensure their classroom success.
- Research shows long-term content achievement gains and grade-level achievement in all subjects in both languages (*Thomas & Collier, 2010, Educating English Learners for a Transformed World*).

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: The program was designed for families who do not speak Spanish. Teachers are aware of this when sending notices or assigning homework. Report cards are in English.

**Q: How will my child learn to read in English if the instruction is in Spanish?**

A: Your child will transfer reading skills to English once they have learned to read in Spanish. Parents should not attempt to formally teach their child to read in English but should read daily with their child in a relaxed and enjoyable manner.

**Q: What are the qualifications for entry into the Spanish Immersion Program?**

A. Reading development in the first language is a strong indicator of a student’s success in acquiring literacy in a second language. Students who score an independent level of 6 on the Development Reading Assessment (DRA) or score 177 or better on the MAP Screener may qualify for the Spanish Immersion Program.

***“To be able to equip Comal ISD students with the tools to become bilingual through a Spanish Immersion Program is to invest in their future and the future of our society.”***

*~Parent of a student in the Spanish Immersion Program*