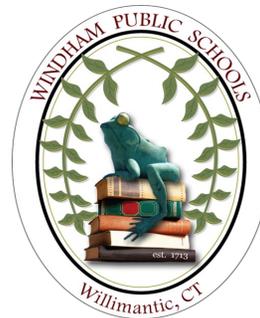


District Mission

Windham Public Schools provides all students equitable access to a high quality education and graduates students who are prepared to become productive members of society. The school district and community hold a commitment to support cultural and linguistic diversity, deep student engagement, and the pursuit of lifelong learning.



Compañeros is an alternative program dedicated to building language proficiency in Spanish and English, cultural exchange, and academic excellence. Parents, children, and teachers work together using community resources and Windham Public Schools to prepare the citizens of tomorrow.



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District Vision

Every student, every day, in every classroom will be deeply engaged in their own learning, challenged by high expectations, supported by staff, family, and community, and will graduate with the competence and confidence needed for success.



Windham
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Compañeros: a Two-Way Immersion Dual Language Program



COMPAÑEROS

What Is a Two-Way (or Dual) Immersion Program?

Two-way immersion is a type of bilingual program where two languages are used for instruction. In Compañeros, curriculum concepts are taught in English and Spanish. Native English speakers, native Spanish speakers, and emerging bilingual children learn together throughout the day.

Compañeros allows monolingual parents to help their children acquire a second language and build a culture that values bilingualism and diversity



Goals of Compañeros

1. Bilingualism and Biliteracy
2. High Academic Achievement in Both Languages
3. Sociocultural Competence



Instructional Program

Students receive 50% of core academic instruction in Spanish and 50% in English in all grades. Students learn to read in both languages.

Curriculum

Students in Compañeros are held to Windham Public Schools standards that ensures students complete the program with the competence and confidence needed for success in two languages.

Classroom Composition

The classroom consists of a balance of native English speakers and native Spanish speakers, and includes developing bilingual speakers.

Language Separation

Students learn through immersion in the target language. Teachers do not translate, and lessons are not repeated in the other language. Teachers use a variety of techniques to support language learners.

How Do Students Benefit?

Social Benefits

- ◆ The dual language immersion environment embraces diversity and bilingualism.
- ◆ Compañeros encourages all students to maintain a strong connection to their heritage and culture.

Cognitive Benefits

- ◆ Native Spanish speakers are able to improve and maintain Spanish while learning English.
- ◆ English speakers can take advantage of the opportunity to learn a second language at an early age, making them more likely to achieve native-like fluency.

Academic Benefits

- ◆ Many studies have demonstrated that dual immersion is the most effective program model for students acquiring English to succeed in school.
- ◆ In a global society, a dual-language education prepares students for college and future careers.

Commitment

Parents and students should be committed to the program from PK/K through Grade 8. Full second language proficiency typically takes at least 5-7 years to develop.