

Two-Way Immersion Programs

Two-Way Immersion Programs are growing in popularity in the United States. Research shows that immersion education is the best model for attaining academic success while teaching a second language to both English speakers and English learners. The Ventura Unified School District began its first Two-Way Immersion Program in the Fall of 2000 with two kindergarten classes at Montalvo Elementary School. The program will expand each year until grades K-12 are included.



Technological proficiency and bilingual skills will prepare Montalvo students for the global world we live in.

Ventura Unified School District Mission Statement

The Ventura Unified School District and its trustees will dedicate the talents of its staff and all the available resources to evolve into a world class educational system which meets the demands of the societal changes of the 21st century.

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Montalvo Elementary School



Two Way Immersion Program

Ventura Unified School District

The Goals of Two Way Immersion Education

The goals of the Two-Way Dual Immersion Program are to provide opportunities for children to:

- Develop oral proficiency, literacy, and academic abilities in two languages;
- Demonstrate academic performance at or above grade level;
- Participate in cross-cultural relationships and learning experiences that foster the development of a positive self-esteem and cultural pride; and
- Get involved with their parents in their educational process.

Program Design & Evaluation

Montalvo's Two-Way Dual Immersion Program is designed to provide a strong beginning for all students. Classes are composed of a balance of English speakers and English learners. The curriculum (language arts, math, science, social studies, art, etc.) is taught primarily in Spanish during grades K-1 with a gradual increase in English instructional time until a 50:50 balance is obtained at 5th grade.

Evaluation of student progress includes regular district assessments plus assessments of Spanish language skills.

Below is a chart depicting the amount of instructional time in English and Spanish:

Grade Level & Expectations	Amount of Spanish Instruction	Amount of English Instruction
K Listening skills and beginning responses in student's second language.	90%	10%
1st Students begin to express themselves in second language.	90%	10%
2nd Students converse and express themselves regarding school topics in second language.	80%	20%
3rd Students continue with oral language skill development and demonstrate literacy skills in two languages	70%	30%
4th Students participate in academic instruction in English and Spanish.	60%	40%
5th Students demonstrate oral language, literacy skills and academic proficiencies in both English and Spanish.	50%	50%

English Learners and English speakers receive daily instruction in English Language Development. Classes are taught by qualified bilingual teachers. Teaming with other Montalvo teachers is encouraged to promote a school-wide program and provide additional language models.

Parent Participation

Parent participation is an integral part of the Two-Way Dual Immersion Program. There are many opportunities for parents to participate. These include:

Parent Meetings – Parents are also encouraged to participate in ongoing Montalvo involvement activities such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), School Site Council (SSC), classroom volunteer opportunities, field trips, and other volunteer activities. There may also be opportunities for parents to attend workshops, seminars, and conferences that will help them to become more familiar with Two Way Immersion education and meet the needs of their child (please check with administration).

Family Literacy Programs

Two Way Immersion families participate in the take-home program, Lake Educational Technologies (LET), a reading program that encourages literacy at home and offers a positive approach to family involvement.

Parent Information

Montalvo school offers parent resources where many tools are available to parents including books, magazine articles, computer access with word processing programs, Internet access, and more. All parents are welcome to stop by during scheduled times and find the information and resources they need.