

# De Laveaga Elementary School Two Way Immersion Program Spanish & English

Santa Cruz City Schools



## What is a Two Way Immersion Program?

A program where students learn to speak, read and write in Spanish and in English at academic grade level proficiency.

## Why?

Language learning is natural for young children. Learning a new language develops children's mental abilities and prepares students for diversity.

## How?

Students are taught the majority of the day in Spanish by a Spanish-speaking teacher. Students are also taught in English by an English-speaking teacher. Students help each other to speak, read, write and understand one another's language.

## For whom?

Children who speak either Spanish, English or both, are eligible.



## Benefits

Students gain a new language and maintain their native language. Studies show that students in two-way immersion programs perform at or above other seventh-grade classes on standardized tests in math, science and social studies (Collier Thomas Study, 1996). Knowing two languages increases job opportunities for many careers and promotes critical and creative thinking. In addition students fulfill language requirements for high school and university.

## Curriculum

All the curriculum taught is aligned with the California State Standards in language, arts, mathematics, and all other subjects.

## Program Goals

Student will gain:

- Language proficiency in both Spanish and English.
- Academic achievement in Spanish and English.
- Positive self-esteem, cultural awareness and sensitivity.



## Support

Parents agree to a six-year commitment to the Two Way Immersion Program.

## Parents Partnership

Active parent involvement is an important component of the program. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and to attend the Two Way Parent Advisory Committee meetings.

## Education

Evening parent classes and special workshops are excellent opportunities for learning and supporting our children in this program.

For more information, contact:

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