



Frequently Asked Questions

WHY IMMERSION?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of immersion programs to help students attain high levels of second language proficiency. No other type of instruction, short of living in a second-language environment, is as successful. Young children especially thrive in this type of instructional environment.

PROVEN BENEFITS

Improved Performance on Standardized Tests

Immersion students perform as well or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and math administered in English. Students achieve high proficiency in the immersion language.

Enhanced Cognitive Skills

Immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills as well as an enhanced understanding of their primary language.

Increased Cultural Sensitivity

Immersion students are more aware of and show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people.

Preparation

Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset to have.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Immersion Program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and abilities. Applications are open to all students entering kindergarten. However, it may not be a wise choice for children experiencing significant communication delays in their primary language.

WHY CHINESE?

Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world. The Mandarin dialect is the official language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan and is widely understood in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Mongolia. Also, according to our country's latest census, Chinese is the third most spoken language in the U.S.

As business and political relationships between the U.S. and China deepen and become more complex, having the skills to communicate with people in this increasingly important part of the world will be a valuable asset both at home and abroad.

WHY SPANISH?

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the United States. It is also the most studied language in the United States. Twenty-one countries in the world speak Spanish as their official language.

Delaware professionals such as those in medicine, international trade, pharmaceuticals, the oil and gas industry, power industry, luxury goods and other transportation technologies encompass extensive Spanish-speaking networks locally and around the world.

Students who learn Spanish perform better on standardized tests since more than 50% of modern-day English words trace their origins to Spanish. This means that students learning Spanish as a new language have a relatively quick learning curve which can boost their confidence in learning a new language.