

Aspen Elementary – Chinese Dual Language Immersion 2015-2016

WHAT IS IMMERSION?

Immersion is a unique educational setting where students receive instruction in both English and Chinese from two quality teachers, 50% in each language. The program begins in 1st grade and students continue receiving instruction in both languages through 6th grade. Instead of a traditional classroom experience, students receive their education through immersion.

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.

WHY CHINESE?

Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world and the third most commonly spoken language in the U.S. China is heir to the traditions of one of the world's richest and most ancient cultures and home today to the world's second largest economy. Its political, economic, and cultural impact in generations to come will be significant.

PROVEN BENEFITS OF IMMERSION PROGRAMS

- Long Term Second Language Skills
- Improved Performance on Standardized Tests
- Enhanced Cognitive Skills
- Increased Cultural Sensitivity

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The immersion program at Aspen Elementary seeks to enroll incoming 1st grade students for next year. Applications will be available at the school during the month of February. They will be accepted through February 27, 2015.

*Program Objectives

- Maximize students' second language proficiency
- Provide a rich academic environment in both first and second language
- Develop students' ability to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
- Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community – Enriched Education

*What to Expect in Dual Immersion

Two Teacher Model

- A teacher with native or near native Mandarin Chinese teams with an experienced English teacher
- Clear and consistent separation of languages during instruction
- Chinese teacher speaks only in Mandarin using a range of engaging strategies as children develop language proficiency

Daily Instruction

- Math, Literacy, Science, and Social Studies instruction in Mandarin Chinese
- Literacy (including Reading, Writing, and Spelling), as well as P.E. and Technology in English
- Art and Music are integrated into English and Chinese instruction
- 50% in Chinese and 50% in English

*Parent Responsibilities

- Commit to long-term participation in immersion program
- Develop understanding of immersion education
- Read with your child in home language 20-30 minutes daily
- Encourage use of target language outside of school
- Provide community support and volunteer when possible
- Enjoy the challenges; celebrate the results
- Parents of students who reside outside the immersion school's attendance area must provide transportation to ensure punctual and consistent attendance.

*Plan for Secondary Programs

- Junior High School – Canyon View Junior High
- Two classes each year in target language
 - Language class/Content class
 - AP language class in 9th grade
- High School – Orem
 - Advanced Language courses
 - Third language

*Parent Resources

- <http://utahimmersioncouncil.org/>
 - The resource section has some very useful information
- <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/dualimmersion/>
- <http://alpineschools.org/dual-immersion>
- <http://utahchineseimmersion.org/>