



SPANISH IMMERSION Information Meeting

**for parents of kindergartners currently
in year one of the two-year pilot program**

February 18, 2010



Meeting Purpose

- Review of the Spanish Immersion program
- Provide information on 2010-2011 implementation plan
- Gather feedback on the current Spanish Immersion Program



Spring Lake Park Schools
SPANISH IMMERSION
Pilot Program - Year One
Kindergarten – 2009-2010



Spanish Immersion Year One 2009-2010

Full Immersion 80/20 classroom model

Offered at two schools

- Woodcrest: Half-Day PM Kindergarten
- Northpoint: All-Day Kindergarten Plus
Half-Day AM Kindergarten



An Immersion Classroom Learning Experience

- The majority of the time the teacher speaks in Spanish
- The teacher and principal have the same expectations for learning the district curriculum as a standard kindergarten classroom
- Initially students speak to each other and their teacher in their first language



Spanish and English Instruction

- Students have the majority of their instruction in the immersion language (K-2) 80/20
- Instruction in specialists are in English (K-5)
- In Grades 3 - 5 language arts will be in English and the remainder of the day would be in the target (Spanish) language; around 50% of their day. The specific plans are being developed over the next two years.



English Language and Literacy Development

- Typically children score at or above their peers in English language and literacy skills by grade five. In grade three they likely will score below their English-only language peers but will improve over the next few years.



Measuring Progress

- Teachers use assessments aligned to the Spring Lake Park learning targets. These will include teacher-created common assessments and standardized assessments.



Helping My Child at Home

- Read to and with your child in English every day.
- The process of learning to read is the same regardless of language.
- This is the best and most important thing you can do for any child.
- Maintaining fluency in your first language is important for literacy skills.



Findings

- Student Achievement Data
- Feedback from our Spanish Immersion Teachers
- Recommendations from existing programs (Richfield, Minnetonka)



Spanish Immersion Student Data

- In the process of learning to read, as measured by our data, the Immersion students are on track with our English students

English Kindergartners

- 90% meeting benchmark for LNF (letter names)
- 72% meeting benchmark for ISF (initial sounds)
- 87% meeting benchmark for PSF (phonemic segmenting)

Spanish Immersion Kindergartners

- 93% meeting benchmark for FNL (letter names)
- 43% meeting benchmark for ISF (initial sounds)
 - This assessment requires students to recall the names for four Spanish words for each item in order to be successful.
- 76% meeting benchmark for FSF-TLP (phonemic segmenting)



Feedback from our Spanish Immersion Teachers

- Continue and expand professional development focused purposefully on instruction in Spanish Immersion classrooms
- Purchase Estrellita, a Spanish literacy program focused on phonemic awareness and phonics



Recommendations From Other Metro Area Spanish Immersion Programs

- Must develop an academic vocabulary
- Use instructional strategies similar to those used with ELL
- Build instructional units around themes
- Must have a print-rich environment
- Involvement in metro-area networks provides great support



Recommendations From Other Metro Area Spanish Immersion Programs

- Utilize Responsive Classroom, support staff, and technology to teach rules and routines to kindergarten students (side by side instruction English/Spanish). Review expectations in the target language in November.
- Identify and implement standardized Spanish literacy assessments and other standardized assessments for Spanish-speaking students
- Expect teachers to use all Spanish after the first two weeks of school



Spring Lake Park Schools
SPANISH IMMERSION
Pilot Program - Year Two
Grade One - 2010-2011



Spanish Immersion 2010-2011

- We will offer Spanish Immersion for Grades K-1 at Northpoint and Woodcrest next school year.*
- We will add students to the grade one program; filling each class and if needed adding one additional section.

**Based on enrollment, we will consider a move to another location. This decision will be made by the end of the school year.*



Transportation

- Park Terrace students will be offered busing to transport them to Woodcrest



Grade One enrollment

- Enrollment in the grade one program is due Friday, March 19, 2010. For both current and new grade one Immersion students.



Planning and Expanding the Spanish Immersion Program

- Summer School options for Immersion students (fee based)
- Parent education through community education
- Expand the Immersion program to include kindergarten next year based on enrollment into the program



Information Gathering, Parent Feedback

Praise

- What are the strengths so far?

Polish

- What suggestions do you have as we consider improvements for next year?

Question

- What questions do you have?



More Information?

- Refer to the school district website at www.springlakeparkschools.org
- Information is posted at each K-3 school and in the news section on the District home page