

Why Immersion?

More than 40 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. Happily, language immersion is also the least expensive way to deliver second-language instruction.

Goals of the Program

Students who complete a K-5 Dual Language Immersion program should be able to:

- ◆ Understand, speak, read and write in the target language with ease.
- ◆ Successfully continue their study of the language in middle school and high school.
- ◆ Have an understanding of the culture associated with people and countries where the target language is spoken.



Jefferson School District 251
World Language Immersion Program Locations

Mandarin Chinese Immersion Location:

South Fork Elementary School
327 N 4100 E
Rigby, ID 83442
(208) 745-7085

Spanish Immersion Locations:

Farnsworth Elementary School
305 N 3700 E
Rigby, ID 83442
(208) 745-7613

Harwood Elementary School
200 W 3rd N
Rigby, ID 83442
(208) 745-7613

Jefferson Elementary School
306 N 3700 E
Rigby, ID 83442
(208) 745-0758

Roberts Elementary School
682 N 2858 E
Roberts, ID 83444
(208) 228-3111



JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT 251

WORLD LANGUAGE
IMMERSION PROGRAMS





World Language Immersion Program

The fall of 2013, Jefferson School District 251 in Rigby, ID, started the World Language Immersion Program in two elementary schools. The program has since been expanded into three additional schools for the 2016-17 school year. One of the schools teaches students Mandarin Chinese and the other four schools teach the students Spanish. Both programs assist students in acquiring a foreign language and achieve above average standardized test scores.

The World Language Immersion programs begin in kindergarten and continue with the child through middle school. Students will then be able to begin college level language classes, enabling them to have completed close to a minor by high school graduation.

Students will also develop world cultural sensitivity. We strive to prepare Jefferson School District students academically, linguistically and socially for the challenges and needs of our global community.

What is World Language Immersion?

World Language Immersion is a way to learn academic content while acquiring another language at the same time. Students receive language, math, science, or social studies instruction in a target language, such as Spanish or Chinese. Because of the teaching strategies used, the students learn the concepts and skills for the subject area and develop the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in another language.

The goals are for the students to develop literacy skills in both English and the target world language while attaining academic achievement that is at or above their grade level.

There is no better way to give our students the 21st century skills they need than to give them the gift of languages. Students in our language immersion programs develop as bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural learners who thrive academically. Knowing other languages and understanding other cultures gives our students the ability to maintain their sense of wonder and curiosity, to cultivate their emotional intelligence, and helps to prepare them to participate as productive citizens in a global society.

World Language Program Benefits

Second Language Skills: Students achieve high-proficiency in the immersion language.

Improved Performance on Standardized Tests: Immersion students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and math administered in English.

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.