

Goal

Discovery Charter School is a 21st century STEAM school that provides an English/Spanish Dual Immersion Program to promote bilingualism, biliteracy, high academic achievement, and sociocultural competence.



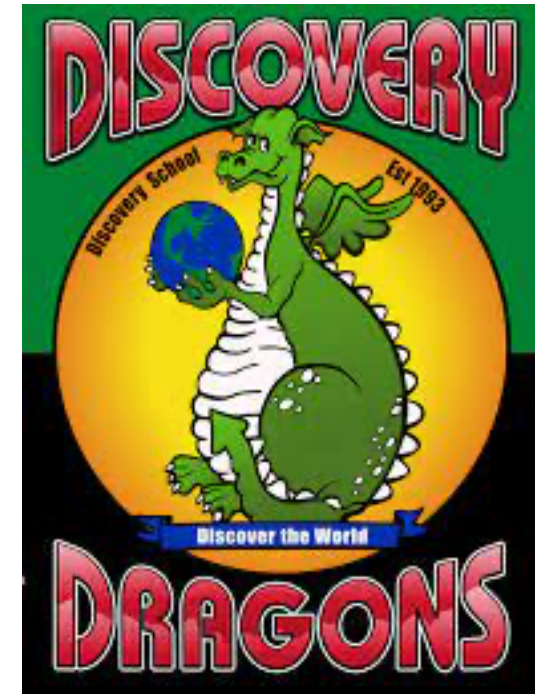
Students in the Dual Immersion Program learn the same content as students in other classrooms and participate in the same school activities. Our program is designed for students to achieve high levels of language proficiency in both languages and to meet or exceed academic standards. Our Dual Immersion Program offers students a joyful, yet rigorous learning environment, therefore helping students achieve success in learning both language and grade level content knowledge.

For further assistance, please contact
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Discovery Charter School

Dual Language Immersion
Program



Program Model

Discovery Charter School's Dual Immersion Program follows the 50:50 Two Way Dual Immersion model. In this model, students spend 50% of their instructional time in English and 50% of their instructional time in Spanish. An equal number of Spanish-speaking and English-speaking students are taught half day in each language. This proportion of time will remain constant throughout the elementary grades, K-6. The instruction provided is not a translation of the lessons but rather a teaching of the concepts and skills needed to meet the Common Core State Standards in Language Arts, Math, Next Generation Science Standards and History/Social Science.

Program Overview

Underlying Beliefs:

1. Bilingualism, biliteracy, multiculturalism and the ability to work with people from other cultures are valuable assets, especially in the 21st century.
2. The best way to develop bilingualism, biliteracy, multiculturalism, and to learn how to work with people from other cultures is through the Dual Language Immersion Program model.
3. You can become bilingual, biliterate, and multicultural without sacrificing academic achievement.

Students in the Dual Language Immersion Program have equal access to the CA Common Core State Standards while learning in both English and Spanish.

Background:

Dual Immersion programs have been found to be very successful for both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking students who remain in the program for an extended period of time (5 or more years). Research indicates that both native English-speaking and non-native English-speaking students perform as well or better than their peers on academic tests and have the opportunity to become truly bilingual, biliterate and multicultural.

All dual language immersion programs have three broad outcomes that are equally important:

- Academic achievement
- Bilingualism/biliteracy
- Cross-cultural competencies

Important Characteristics

Language Separation: In the classroom, students are either learning in English or learning in Spanish, they are not learning in both languages at the same time. Teachers will maintain integrity and purity of both languages. Instruction will be given in either Spanish or English but not mixed. However, opportunities exist for students and teachers to use both languages concurrently for clear academic, linguistic, or social purposes.

Student Integration: English and Spanish speaking students are integrated throughout the entire day serving as language models for each other.

Immersion: Students are immersed in both languages every day. They do not just "study" a second language through conjugating verbs or memorizing vocabulary. They are learning math and science or social studies through the second language. Instruction is carefully prepared so that students are able to understand the content being taught and at the same time develop their language.

