



January 2018

Dear Kindergarten Parents:

We are excited to announce that Lebanon City Schools will be piloting a first grade Spanish immersion program for the 2018-19 school year.

Over three decades of studies consistently show that immersion students achieve as well as or better than non-immersion peers on standardized measures of verbal and mathematics skills administered in English (Cloud, Genesee, & Hamayan, 2000; Genesee, 1987). The goal is for students to become proficient in the second language and develop increased cultural awareness while reaching a high level of academic achievement. Students develop proficiency in the second language by hearing and using it to learn school content rather than by studying the language itself. In foreign language immersion programs, the regular school curriculum is taught in the immersion language for at least half of the school day. One of the key principles of immersion education is that linguistic and cultural knowledge is a resource—the more you know, the better off you are. Immersion education adds knowledge about a new language and culture while building on a child's English language skills and knowledge of U.S. culture.

This is a tremendous development and opportunity in our district. We will be partnering with the Ohio Department of Education to select and hire outstanding highly qualified teachers who are fluent in both Spanish and English.

Before we determine our final implementation plans, we would like to conduct an informational session for this year's kindergarten parents to hear about this opportunity. During the session we will present the Spanish immersion model, our tentative implementation plans, and answer questions that parents have about their child's participation. The pilot program will be limited and attendance at the information meeting is highly encouraged.

What: Spanish Immersion Informational Meeting
Who: Parents of current kindergarten students
Where: Bowman Primary School - Cafeteria
When: Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Times: 2:30 pm or 6:30 pm

Please visit carla.umn.edu and search "immersion education" for additional information regarding language immersion programs.