



SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES OF CURRENT KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

March 2024

Dear Families of current Kindergarten students,

We are excited to announce that Lebanon City Schools and Bowman Primary School will be continuing our Spanish immersion program for the 2024-2025 school year. Next year will be the seventh year of the program. Current Kindergarten students have the opportunity to be selected (by lottery) for first grade Spanish immersion classrooms this spring.

Over three decades of research 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 English¹. 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 world 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. Please visit carla.umn.edu and search "immersion education" for additional information regarding language immersion programs.

Seven years ago, we partnered with the Ohio Department of Education to select and hire outstanding, highly qualified teachers who are proficient in both Spanish and English. This partnership will continue as we move forward with the program.

You are invited to attend an informational session to learn about this opportunity. During the session we will present the Spanish immersion model, implementation plans, and answer questions that parents have about their child's participation. The program will be limited and attendance at the informational meeting is highly encouraged.

If you're interested in the program, please plan to attend one of our informational presentations:

Date: Thursday, April 4

Details: **Online** via Google Meet at 5:00 p.m.
(visit <https://tinyurl.com/info-23> on April 4 to get the link)

Date: Friday, April 5

Details: **In-person** at Bowman Primary School at 9:30 a.m.

You can also learn more about the program and see current students, families, and teachers at our **Spanish Immersion Showcase** on April 10 at Berry Intermediate School from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Sheri McHenry, principal, Bowman Primary School
Mark Graler, director of curriculum and instruction

¹ (Cloud, Genesee, & Hamayan, 2000; Genesee, 1987)