

# McKinney Independent School District

## **2013-2014** Dual Language Program Guidelines/Application

#1 Duvall Street  
McKinney, Texas 75071

## **Dual Language Program Information**

MISD is moving into their 4<sup>th</sup> year of Dual Language implementation. The program is currently offered at Caldwell Elementary in grades K-2. The program will move into grade 3 for the 2013-14 school year.

Two-way immersion is a form of dual language that combines students from two language groups while providing instruction in both languages. The (K-3) classes at Caldwell are comprised of approximately one-half native English speakers and one-half native Spanish speakers. Students learn the academic curriculum through both languages simultaneously. Students serve as language models for each other, while accelerating their learning.

The primary goal of MISD's dual language program is to allow all students to realize the full benefits of bilingualism which include enhanced cognitive ability, increased academic achievement, heightened multicultural appreciation and understanding, and a competitive edge in the increasingly global society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Goals of the Program**

- High Academic Achievement
- Bilingualism
- Bi-literacy
- Multiculturalism

### **Program Information:**

- Implementation began in 2010-11 with kindergarten students at Caldwell Elementary School.
- One grade level will be added per year as the students progress through grade levels
- Teaching partnerships are established with one Spanish (bilingual) speaking teacher and one English speaking teacher.
- Two classes alternate days between the two teachers.
- The ratio of Spanish to English speakers in each class will be maintained as close to 50/50 as possible.
- Class size is 20-22 students per class.
- Languages are separated to benefit all students.
- MISD curriculum will be followed.
- MISD curriculum is enhanced with specific language objectives to accommodate the "second language" need.
- Student's reading, writing, and oral language are assessed in Spanish and English.
- Grades are based on assessments in the student's dominant language
- Students participate in all district and state assessments.
- It is recommended that the parent/student commit to the program for six (6) years.
- All students must be available for assessment prior to the beginning of school.
- Parents are not required to be bilingual for student participation in the program.

**Enrollment:**

- Caldwell zoned students receive priority enrollment.
- Transfer students will be selected through a lottery system.
- Transportation is only provided to Caldwell zoned students who qualify for the service.
- Spanish speaking students zoned for other campuses may apply for open seats through the **Transfer Process**.
- Older siblings in grades 4-5, may attend Caldwell if space allows (**a standard school transfer form must be filled out once a student's name is drawn in the lottery**).

**Contact Information****District Office:**

Dr. Stella Uribe, Director of Bilingual/ESL – McKinney ISD  
#1 Duvall Street  
McKinney, Texas 75069  
469-302-4140  
[suribe@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:suribe@mckinneyisd.net)

**Campus:**

Caldwell Elementary  
601 W Louisiana  
469-302-5500

Caldwell Elementary, Principal: Chris Clark  
[chclark@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:chclark@mckinneyisd.net) /469-302-5575 (office)

Caldwell Elementary, Assistant Principal: Kelly Flowers  
[kflowers@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:kflowers@mckinneyisd.net) /469-302-5512 (office)

# Frequently Asked Questions From Parents

1. How will GT identified students be served in the Dual Language program?
  - a. Students identified as GT will be served in the same manner as any other GT student in MISD.
2. When/How will you determine if the program is successful?
  - a. Student progress will be monitored consistently to ensure that all students are successful academically. A program evaluation will be completed at the end of the school year to ensure continued success as implementation moves forward.
3. What texts will be used for math and science?
  - a. Envision and Investigations texts for math, and the MISD curriculum will be utilized in science. Supplemental resources will be used to enrich the curriculum.
4. When is Spanish offered to MISD students after 5<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - a. Currently, Spanish is offered beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade as an elective course and is offered through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
5. Will the program be implemented at other MISD campuses?
  - a. The feasibility of further implementation will be determined at a later date.
6. Will students be allowed to use their native language on days they are instructed in their “second” language?
  - a. Students will always be allowed to use their language of choice in social settings and emergency situations. However, to fully develop bilingualism the instructional language will be encouraged.
7. Is there a pre-developed program that you are following?
  - a. We are utilizing MISD’s curriculum in a Two-Way Dual Language Model, which supports simultaneous literacy acquisition. The Dual Language Model will be accomplished by rotating English and Spanish days for instruction, through the use of teaching partnerships (**One English and One Spanish teacher**).
8. Once a kindergarten student enrolls in the Dual Language program at Caldwell, will they be allowed to remain if the family moves to another attendance zone in MISD?
  - a. Yes!
9. If my child is not selected through the lottery this year, will there be an opportunity to enter the program in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade?
  - a. Consideration will be made on a “case-by-case” basis.

10. Where are the statistics from in the research data supporting dual language programming?
  - a. *Thomas & Collier's* 2002 research was the original basis for the development of MISD's Dual Language program. Both are well-known researchers in the field of dual-language and continue to add more research as these programs expand throughout the United States.
11. If a child is accepted as a transfer, will an older sibling be allowed to attend Caldwell?
  - a. Older siblings will only be allowed entrance if space allows in grades **4 and 5**.
12. What happens to new Caldwell zoned families that have a kindergarten or first grade student participating in the Dual Language program but also have older students who cannot participate in the program?
  - a. Depending on the year of enrollment, the older student would more than likely be able to attend typical classes at Caldwell (4-5). If not, a transfer would be granted to a nearby campus.
13. Will older siblings of Dual Language program participants be allowed to attend Caldwell?
  - a. Yes. If the sibling are in grade 4 or grade 5 for the 2013-2014 school year, they may attend Caldwell.
14. How is homework handled for parents who only speak their student's native language?
  - a. Homework that is not in a family's native language will only be sent home when a student can adequately complete it independently or with proper instructions for parents in the native language.
15. How will small group instruction be handled on days when students' instruction is in their second language?
  - a. The language of the day will always be followed unless there is a specific instructional need for a student.
16. Will younger siblings of transfer students be guaranteed a spot when they begin kindergarten?
  - a. Our goal is to keep the families of students intact as they begin the dual language program. Due to changes in enrollment and program demand, transfers will not be guaranteed.
17. How current is the data from the California research used to develop and support the Dual Language program?
  - a. The data utilized for development and support of the Dual Language program is from a California research study. It is based on a longitudinal study that followed students in various ESL programs, traditional one way bilingual programs (both late and early exit models), regular academic programs, 90/10 and 50/50 two way dual language immersion programs from 1990-2002. Data revealed the difference in academic performance of students who participated in these programs. While their participation in the dual language programs (both the 50/50 and the 90/10) ended at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, their academic progress was still measured as exceeding students in all other academic programs through grade 11.
18. Do we have data on dual language programs in Texas Schools?
  - a. There is data to show the effectiveness of dual language programs in Texas schools as well. There are additional research studies that focus on dual language programs in Texas available on the following website: [www.texastwoway.org](http://www.texastwoway.org)

19. How does class size in dual language compare to all other classes?

- a. Ideal class size in the dual language program will be 18 or 20 students so an even number of Spanish and English students can be accommodated. Of course, actual enrollment numbers will determine class size. The limit will be 22 per class. The limit in non-dual classes is currently 19.

20. How will content be divided by two teachers?

- a. The content will not be divided by teachers. Both teachers will share the content and plan closely together to ensure students progress adequately through the curriculum.

21. Is there a possibility for strategic abandonment of the program?

- a. MISD is committed to continuing this program at Caldwell.

22. Is Caldwell the pilot campus for this program? What are plans for future campuses implementing the program?

- a. Caldwell is the pilot campus for this program. The feasibility of this will be determined at a later date.

23. How will days be divided between two teachers?

- a. It will be a rotation of every other instructional day in the partner languages. A typical schedule evenly divides the instruction (1/2 English/1/2 Spanish) over a ten-day period.

24. Can a *retained child* participate in the program?

- a. Yes. A *retained child* can participate in the Dual Language program with parental consent.

## Caldwell Dual Language Informational/Enrollment Dates

### **Important Dates**

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Applications for the Dual Language Program will be available.

### **Two-Way Dual Language Parent Informational Meetings (Caldwell Library)**

March 19 @ 9:30 a.m.

March 21 @ 6:00 p.m. (repeat session)

March 25<sup>th</sup>      **Deadline:** Applications for the Dual Language Program (*only students who desire to transfer from another MISD campus*) are due to the Bilingual/ESL Office/# 1 Duvall Street by 4:00 p.m.

March 26<sup>th</sup>      Lottery drawing for transfer application students to participate in Dual Language (space permitting); Students/Families will be notified of lottery results this week

April 1st      Enrollment begins for Caldwell zoned students

### **School/Class Tours (Meet in Caldwell Library)**

May 21, 22, 23 @ 8:30 a.m. (repeat sessions)

### **Student Assessment Dates**

July 15-19      Scheduled by appointment, sign up for preferred time at parent meeting in May or by contacting Kelly Flowers at 469.302.5512.

**McKinney Independent School District  
Dual Language Program Registration Form 2013-2014**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade entering in fall 2013: Check one:  K  1

Language Dominance:  Spanish  English

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Dual language is a bilingual education model that consistently uses two languages for instruction and communication, with a balanced number of students from two language groups who are integrated for instruction. Dual language promotes cross-cultural understanding and acceptance.

The goal of dual language instruction is bilingualism and bi-literacy for all students in appropriate grade-level content. The level of bilingualism and bi-literacy developed through dual language are usually not attained through other bilingual or foreign language instruction models. This level of bi-literacy is achieved because:

- Literacy and content instruction are provided in both languages.
- Only one language is used during each period of instruction.
- Equal status is given to both languages.
- District curriculum objectives are used within Dual Language classrooms.

\*A lottery system will be used for student selection should more students indicate interest in the program than the number of available spaces.

***We understand the information provided regarding the Dual Language Program in McKinney ISD and we are interested in continuing with the registration process for our child.***

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to the McKinney ISD Central Administration Office, **Attention: Dr. Stella Uribe**, #1 Duvall Street, McKinney, TX 75069 by **March 25, 2013**. The Dual Language Lottery will be conducted on **March 26, 2013** and parent notification will occur the same week the lottery is conducted.*