

# Tigard-Tualatin School District Two-Way Immersion Program

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We are very excited to offer a Spanish/English Two-Way Immersion program at **Metzger** and **Bridgeport** elementary schools.

## What is Two-Way Immersion (TWI)?



- TWI is a highly successful way for both native Spanish speakers and native English speakers to become fully literate in two languages while meeting high academic standards in all subject areas.
- TWI kindergartners spend 90% of their day learning in Spanish and 10% in English. In first grade, 80% of the day is taught in Spanish. In second grade, it's 70% and in third grade, it's 60%. In fourth grade (and beyond), the ratio of Spanish to English is 50:50.
- Families can request TWI when they enroll their child in kindergarten. Students benefit when they have the full support of their families to meet the challenges of an immersion program. A family, however, does not have to be bilingual for the student to succeed.
- Immersion is not translation. Children have a natural language-learning capacity and using a second language to learn interesting things at school is a natural way to pick up that language.
- At both Metzger and Bridgeport, it is our goal to produce students who can speak, read and write in both languages by the 5th grade.

## ● Does Two-Way Immersion work?

Yes! The first TWI programs began over 30 years ago. Many different school districts in Oregon (Beaverton, Hillsboro, Portland, Eugene, Salem) have a language immersion option for families. Tigard-Tualatin began its TWI program in 2012.



Studies show that the average student entering a TWI program at kindergarten, speaking only one language, will graduate achieving at or above national averages in both English and Spanish language on standardized tests.

## ● How does it work?

Immersion takes advantage of children's natural language learning abilities. Instead of teaching a language, we teach through a language. Teachers use special techniques called "sheltered instruction" to help those children who are working in their second language. In an immersion classroom, the teacher is not the only model for each language. The students are also models for each other.



## ● How long does it take?

We ask our families to make a long-term commitment to the program because it takes most people five to seven years to become fully fluent in a second language. What we want and expect from our TWI students is the ability to speak--more

than just informally--and to read, write and study at high levels in both their languages. Throughout the normal language learning process, students initially absorb language, but can't yet speak. Families sometimes start to worry in these early stages. Given time, this process is followed by speech emergence and fluency.



## ● Will TWI students learn the same skills that non-TWI students learn?



Yes! Even courses taught in Spanish will enable students to meet or exceed all state standards for literacy, math, science and social studies.

## ● Where can I get more information about TWI programs in Tigard-Tualatin?

1. Come talk to our teachers and principals about this program.
2. Visit these websites:

[http://metzger.ttsdschools.org/pages/metzger\\_elementary/Dual\\_Language](http://metzger.ttsdschools.org/pages/metzger_elementary/Dual_Language)  
[http://bridgeport.ttsdschools.org/pages/bridgeport\\_elementary/Design\\_Resources/5133265291967136482/Main\\_Nav/Dual\\_Language\\_Lenguaje\\_Dual](http://bridgeport.ttsdschools.org/pages/bridgeport_elementary/Design_Resources/5133265291967136482/Main_Nav/Dual_Language_Lenguaje_Dual)  
<http://www.cal.org/twi/>  
<http://www.lindholm-leary.com/> <http://njrp.tamu.edu/2004/PDFs/Collier.pdf>  
<http://www.colorincolorado.org>