

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Please refer to the Registration Guidebook for Parents or visit [apsva.us/school-options/](https://apsva.us/school-options/) for specific application dates.



- Attend orientations offered at the schools or visit their website:
  - Claremont - <https://claremont.apsva.us/>
  - Escuela Key - <https://key.apsva.us/>
  - Gunston - <https://gunston.apsva.us/>
  - Wakefield - <https://wakefield.apsva.us/>

## LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE...

- Enables students to interact and communicate with others while gaining a greater understanding of and respect for different cultures.
- Empowers students to become multilingual and multicultural resources for American and international businesses.
- Strengthens critical thinking skills through problem solving, conceptualizing, and reasoning.
- Enhances the ability to see connections between the various disciplines.
- Provides a competitive edge in career choices and in professional learning for staff.
- Offers language enrichment opportunities for students whose heritage language is not English.
- Provides students with a sense of personal satisfaction and enjoyment in their ability to communicate with people from other cultures.



Arlington  
Public  
Schools

## DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM



## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Contact The Office of English Learners. We welcome questions and input. Call us at (703) 228-6095 M-F from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Visit the APS Website for general program information: <https://www.apsva.us/english-learners/immersion-program/>



## DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that immersion students outperform peers. “Most fully proficient bilinguals outperform monolinguals in the areas of divergent thinking, pattern recognition, and problem solving, in addition to outperforming their monolingual peers on assessments in reading.”

*University of Minnesota Center for Advanced Research and Language Acquisition*

Cultivating a Lifelong Love of Language Learning

Office of English Learners

## What is Dual Language Immersion?

- Teaching and learning the core APS curriculum through the lens of two languages
- Integrating heritage Spanish and English speakers for academic instruction in two languages
  - 80/20 dual language immersion program model in lower primary grades
  - 50/50 dual language immersion program model in upper primary grades
- Developing fluency in another language while continuing to build literacy in a student's home language
- Motivating students to develop cross-cultural awareness and understanding

## Where is Dual Language Immersion Available?

Our immersion schools are recognized as International Spanish Academy sites by the Embassy of Spain:

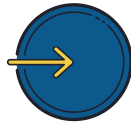
- Claremont Immersion Elementary School
- Escuela Key Elementary School
- Gunston Middle School
- Wakefield High School

Dual Language students qualify for the Virginia Seal of Biliteracy & Diplomas de Excelencia Académica from the Embassy of Spain.



### Program Goals

- Develop bilingualism and biliteracy in English and Spanish, while learning the core APS curriculum
- Promote high academic achievement for all students
- Foster cross-cultural competency and caring supportive relationships



### ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Elementary Immersion is available to all students countywide at Escuela Key or Claremont, depending on place of residence.
- Point of entry is Kindergarten and 1st grade. Students entering after 2nd grade are evaluated along specific guidelines for Spanish fluency in all language domains.
- In Middle and High School, students coming from schools other than Escuela Key or Claremont may also be admitted to the program. A placement test is required.



**“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way”**

-Frank Smith

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is an 80/20 dual language immersion program model?**

The first number refers to the amount of instructional time initially spent for instruction in the target or non-English language in kindergarten and first grade. The second number refers to the percentage of time students are engaged in English instruction. In a 80/20 model the amount of time in the target language decreases yearly as English increases until there is a 50/50 balance of the languages in grades four and five.

- **What specialized training do Immersion teachers have?**

Immersion classroom teachers are required to hold a Virginia teacher's license in elementary education. At the secondary level, teachers are certified in the subject area they teach (Spanish, Social Studies, or Science).

- **What are the options for Spanish study at Wakefield High School (grades 9-12)?**

### World Language Courses

- \*Spanish Immersion 9
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers III
- Spanish Level V
- AP Spanish Language & Culture
- AP Spanish Literature
- Advanced Studies in Spanish

### Content Courses Taught in Spanish

- \*Intensified Immersion Biology (9th)
- \*Intensified Immersion Chemistry (10th or 11th)
- \*Immersion Algebra I (9th or 10th)
- \*Immersion Geometry (9th or 10th)
- Spanish Focused Senior Project (12th)  
*Content courses may vary yearly*

The DELE Exam (Certificate of Spanish as a Foreign Language), the official accreditation of fluency in Spanish, is offered junior year.

\*Only offered to Immersion students