

Spanish Immersion Parent Commitment Agreement

The Spanish Immersion program at Lancaster Mennonite equips students to become proficient in Spanish while meeting all academic standards. In order for students to have success, parents should understand and be engaged in the commitments for the program. Please review the following statements:

- In the first three years of the Spanish Immersion program (Kindergarten – Grade 2) all classroom instruction will be in Spanish. Beginning in Grade 3, students will receive an English class. Gradually the amount of English will increase each year thereafter until entering the maintenance phase in the Middle School.
- At the beginning of the program some children could feel some stress and frustration since they may not fully understand all that the teacher is saying.
- The Spanish Immersion program is designed for a minimum six-year period and removing a child from the program, particularly in the earlier years (Kindergarten - Grade 3), could require supplementary tutoring in order to transition successfully into an English-only program.
- **Reading instruction in English is to be done in the home. There will be no direct English literacy instruction in Kindergarten – Grade 2.** Parents should be aware that there may be an initial delay in acquiring English literacy. **However, parents are expected to take responsibility for developing their child’s English literacy through direct practice at home.** Learning to read in Spanish and English involve the same processes, but in order to build both languages simultaneously, direct and consistent parent support of English reading at home is essential.
- Spanish Immersion students are held to the same academic standards and they will be required to do the same standardized testing as any other child in our school system.
- Parental involvement is highly correlated with success at school. Parents need to support their children academically, even if they don’t speak or understand Spanish, by showing interest in school, ensuring that homework is completed, **reading together in English**, communicating with the teacher, and seeking community opportunities to expose children to Spanish. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must agree to support entry into the Spanish Immersion program **and to attend any parent meetings and Spanish Immersion events.**

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Having read the above statements, I commit to the following:

1. I will ensure that my child comes on time to school each day since regular attendance is vital to success in the program.
2. I recognize that no English literacy instruction will be given from Kindergarten through Grade 2 and I commit to ensuring that my child develops English literacy skills at home.
3. I understand that removing my child from the program could require tutoring for my child to transition successfully into an English-only program, and that my child may require English tutoring in order to remain in the program if recommended by the school team.
4. If my child is discovered to have learning problems that make success in the program very difficult, I will agree to have him/her reassigned to an English classroom based on the recommendation of the teacher and/or administration.
5. I also understand that my child's participation in the Immersion program is considered on a trial basis and that continued participation in the program will be evaluated and a determination made on future enrollment in the program. This may result in a need to reassign my child to an English classroom.

I have read and understand the Spanish Immersion Parent Commitment Agreement and am willing to fulfill all of the requirements described. We ask that both parents/primary caregivers sign this form, if possible. One signature is required.

Name of child _____

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Signature

Date

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Signature

Date
