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Lancaster Mennonite School / 2176 Lincoln Highway East / Lancaster, PA 17602 / (717) 509-4459



I LIKE THAT BECAUSE OF THE SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM AT LM
I AM FLUENT IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE.

AVERY K, STUDENT OF THE SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

See more parent, student and teacher testimonials at: www.lancastermennonite.org/about/testimonials

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Accredited by AdvancEd and the Mennonite Education Agency

Lancaster Mennonite School admits students of any gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally made available to all students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs and athletic or other school-administered programs.

DEVELOP WORLD LANGUAGE FLUENCY



SPANISH IMMERSION

OFFERING A K-12TH GRADE SPANISH IMMERSION TRACK
IN ADDITION TO A STANDARD ENGLISH TRACK

SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

KINDERGARTEN-12TH GRADE



WHY IMMERSION?

Immersion programs are the fastest growing and most effective type of world language instruction currently available. The goal of language immersion is for students to become proficient in another language while developing increased cultural awareness. Students develop proficiency in another language by using it to learn content rather than by only studying the language itself.

START YOUNG

The young child's brain is developmentally ready to learn language. There is a window of opportunity in which the brain is most receptive to new language acquisition, which allows children to learn another language much like they learned their first. Most children become highly proficient in their new language, typically far better than those who begin to learn a new language later in life.

We offer a unique Spanish Immersion Program that equips English-speaking students to read, write, and speak in the Spanish language.

Spanish Immersion students meet all academic standards of Lancaster Mennonite School while becoming proficient in the Spanish language and developing cultural understanding.

WHAT DOES IMMERSION OFFER?

The immersion program begins in kindergarten and continues through High School. In K-5th, all content instruction is in Spanish. In 3rd-5th, students have a daily English class that focuses on strengthening writing and spelling. In 6th-8th students switch to the maintenance phase and have two daily classes in Spanish and the rest in English. In High School, immersion students can take AP Spanish Language and Culture in a two-year cycle, with different content each year. AP Spanish Language and Literature is offered as an additional elective after this. Students that remain in the program will attain fluency in oral and written Spanish.

WHAT ABOUT ENGLISH?

Reading instruction in English is to be done in the home. There is no direct English literacy instruction in K-2nd. Parents should recognize that there may be an initial delay in acquiring English literacy. Also, parents need to understand that they are responsible for developing their child's English literacy through direct practice at home by reading to their child and having their child read to them. By 5th grade most immersion students perform similarly to their English-only peers. It is important for parents to expect and accept a short-term lag in English literacy in order to achieve the long-term benefit of dual literacy.



CURRICULUM

The Spanish Immersion Program follows the LM curriculum except that classroom instruction is in Spanish. Teachers work hard to make the Spanish comprehensible, even for beginning students. In the early grades this includes the use of songs, useful phrases, chants and rhymes, and carefully structured days with familiar routines. As students progress in the program and their comprehension improves, less supports are needed. In the first year of the program students may need to use some English to communicate due to their limited language capacity. After that year, students are expected to use Spanish in all of their communication throughout the day, with the exception of specials and English class. Classroom decorations and learning tools are all in Spanish as well.

PARENTS' ROLE

Families are asked to make a long-term commitment to the Spanish Immersion Program. A long-term commitment is necessary for the child to experience the full benefits of the program. Also, like all parents, parents of children in the Spanish Immersion Program must provide experiences that help their child develop English language skills, including reading to their children in English and having their children read to them in English.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

- Be informed about the immersion program
- Promote language learning in your child
- Read daily in English with your child
- Ensure your child attends school regularly
- Provide experiences to enrich Spanish skills and culture

REGISTER FOR SPANISH IMMERSION

Parents who are interested in enrolling their children should complete a Commitment Form to reserve a place in the program. Enrollment will not be considered complete until the school's regular application form is completed, submitted and accepted, along with a registration fee.