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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

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Accredited by Cognia 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



We offer a successful, time-tested Spanish Immersion Program that has been operating for 14+ years. The program equips English-speaking students to read, write, and speak in the Spanish language.

WHY IMMERSION?

Bilingual immersion programs are the most effective type of world language instruction currently available. Students become biliterate by using the language to learn content rather than by only studying the language itself. Research shows that, compared to their non-bilingual peers, bilingual people have an easier time understanding math concepts, developing strong thinking skills, and show better self-control, a key indicator of school success (*Department of Education USA*).

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. Learning early sets up bilingual children for long-term success into adulthood. Nearly 66% of adults around the world speak at least two languages. In today's global society, your child will have many advantages as a biliterate person (*National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education*).

WHAT DOES IMMERSION OFFER?

The immersion program begins in kindergarten and continues through High School.

- **PreK** - Starting in PreK students have weekly Spanish lessons to begin introducing them to vocabulary.
- **K-2nd grades** - All core content instruction is in Spanish, except for Bible & Integrated Arts, which are taught in English.
- **3rd-4th grade** - Students have a daily English class that focuses on strengthening writing and spelling.
- **5th-8th grade (Middle School)** - Students switch to the maintenance phase and have two daily classes in Spanish and the rest in English.
- **9th-12th grade (High School)** - Immersion students can take AP Spanish Language and Culture in a two-year cycle, with different content each year. An advanced Spanish Culture course is offered as an additional elective after this. High school students also participate in a bi-annual Mini Course with options for students to travel to Spanish-speaking country or participate in an exchange program with a school in Spain.

Spanish Immersion students meet all academic standards of Lancaster Mennonite School while becoming proficient in the Spanish language and developing cultural understanding. **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 with their child and following other practices recommended by the school. 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 Integrated Arts (Art & Design, Music, Physical Education, Library, Recess), Bible, Chapel, and English classes. 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. Research from *Collier and Thomas (1995)*, *¡Colorín Colorado!*, has shown that it may take children with no prior instruction or no support in native language development at least seven years to develop Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) rather than just basic social language skills, which occurs in six months to two years.

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
- Attend LM-provided literacy workshops
- Seek additional reading support if recommended

REGISTER FOR SPANISH IMMERSION

Parents who are interested in enrolling their children should indicate interest in Spanish Immersion on the application. Enrollment will not be considered complete until the school's regular application form is completed, submitted, and accepted, along with the registration fee. Prospective students will complete a readiness assessment to determine the best classroom placement. Placement in Spanish Immersion is dependent upon ability of spots, meeting Kindergarten readiness benchmarks, and agreeing to the Spanish Immersion Parent Commitment Form.