

GOALS FOR OUR SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Our goals are:

- To develop a high level of proficiency in Spanish.
- To develop positive attitudes toward those who speak a language other than English and toward their cultures.
- To develop English language skills appropriate to the expectations for the student's age and abilities.
- To learn the curriculum as defined by the District.



If you would like additional information,
please call
Lakeshore Elementary School
at 786-1400.

WEST OTTAWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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West Ottawa Public Schools



SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Located at
Lakeshore Elementary School
3765 N. 168th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

SPANISH IMMERSION

The Spanish Immersion program at Lakeshore Elementary is committed to immersing students into the Spanish language and culture in order for them to be better equipped for success in our increasingly global world. In our immersion program, the regular school curriculum is taught in Spanish for at least half of the school day.

We currently offer this program for 3 and 4-year-old preschool as well as grades K—5. The program continues at Harbor Lights Middle School for our students.

Other benefits include:

- The ability to speak more than one language is increasingly important in today's interdependent world.
- Studies show that students do at least as well and usually better than comparable non-immersion students.
- When a foreign language is learned at an early age, children have native-like pronunciation and grammar control.
- Americans fluent in other languages can benefit society, increasing global competitiveness and communication.

WHY CHOOSE IMMERSION FOR YOUR CHILD?

Research shows that truly learning a language at an early age, not just parroting memorized colors and numbers will:

- Positively effect intellectual growth
- Enhance a child's mental development
- Give the student more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for language
- Improve a child's understanding of his or her native language
- Increase job opportunities

WHAT INFLUENCES LANGUAGE LEARNING?

Language learning is influenced by many factors, including a student's personality and motivation, teacher expectations, parental support, program leadership, and support at both the school and district level. **Student success requires the active involvement of all of these stakeholders.**



IMMERSION PROGRAMS ARE SUCCESSFUL AND EFFECTIVE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS

- Language acquisition occurs most effectively when the language is used to communicate in meaningful and social situations, rather than in isolation. A classroom is an excellent environment and basis for this process. The primary focus on immersion is not language learning but academic instruction.
- The integration of language and content instruction provides a significant basis for language learning.
- There is a relationship between language and other aspects of human development. Cognition and social development happen concurrently in children. Development of these together is highly beneficial.