

What are others saying about Dual Language?

“Our son has had the opportunity to participate in the dual language program at Sharpstein for the past 4 years. It has been amazing to observe his growth over the years in learning a second language.

He is able to communicate with others using his second language, and we know he will be better prepared to enter the world as an adult having learned a second language.”

John & Susie Golden

“My son Gus has grown so much in the Dual Language program. At first he struggled with the language. Things didn’t come naturally to him at first. At one point he wanted to quit the program.

His principal and teachers counseled patience as it takes some children longer to get used to how to manage a second language. The last two years he has blossomed. He loves the Spanish portion of his day.”

Dan Calzaretta

Walla Walla Public Schools

Walla Walla Public Schools
364 S. Park St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.527.3000
509.529.0952 (FAX)
website: www.wwps.org

Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all the requirements of the ADA



Walla Walla
Public
Schools

Two-Way Language Enrichment Program

Childhood is the ideal time to learn a new language and the best time for most people to acquire complete fluency, native-like pronunciation and a natural ease of expression.

Students will learn:

- English and Spanish
- Cultural Respect
- Grade level subject content
- How to work well with others

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability

Respect | Courtesy

Grade Level Program Delivery

Kindergarten/First Grade

The kindergarten program begins with literacy activities provided in the students' home language. Throughout the rest of the school day, instruction will be provided 50% Spanish and 50% English. Spanish and English language instruction is also infused into the curriculum with songs, stories and activities for all children.

Second Grade

Basic literacy skills continue to be taught in the student's primary language, with literacy instruction in the second language added. The goal of the program is for students to develop a strong skill base in their own language, and only then start adding the second language for reading. This optimally occurs by the end of second grade or as the child is ready.

Third • Fourth • Fifth Grades

All students receive literacy instruction in both languages with mixed language grouping. The rest of the day is 50/50 in all content areas.

Parental Involvement

The Two-Way Language Enrichment program welcomes parental involvement at all levels. Home/school communication and collaboration are vital to student and program success. Parents are invited to assist teachers in and out of the classroom and attend parent workshops.

Program Contacts

- Bilingual Coordinator Diana Erickson
(509) 526-6771 Email: derickson@wwps.org
- Sharpstein Elementary Principal Laure Quaresma
(509) 527-3098 Email: lquaresma@wwps.org
- Edison Elementary Principal Nancy Withycombe
(509) 527-3072 Email: nwithycombe@wwps.org

Welcome to Walla Walla Public Schools

Walla Walla Public Schools offers Two-way Language Enrichment classrooms.

Native English speakers and native Spanish speakers are placed in the same classrooms. Instruction occurs in English for 50 percent of the day and in Spanish for 50 percent of the day.

This program continues through 5th grade. Speaking fluency as well as literacy in both English and Spanish are two goals of this program for all children participating.

What is Two-Way Language Enrichment Program?

A program to develop:

- Fluency in two languages
- Academic success in two languages
- Positive cultural relationships

Who Can Participate?

- New kindergarten students who are English or Spanish speaking and interested in becoming bilingual.

District Mission Statement

Walla Walla Public Schools, in partnership with the community, is committed to excellence in personalized learning which challenges and supports all students in becoming educated, productive citizens, and life-long learners.

Program Goals

Two-Way Language Enrichment Program

Develop fluency and literacy in two languages: Spanish and English.

Achieve proficiency in all academic subjects, meeting or exceeding district guidelines.

Cultivate an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, and develop positive attitudes toward fellow students, their families and their community.

Program Description

The Two-Way Language Enrichment Program is a language-oriented program designed to build fluency in both Spanish and English. Native Spanish and English speaking children have an opportunity to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in both languages.

Spanish and English instruction are always kept separate, allowing for maximized concentration of both languages. Heterogeneous groupings during the Spanish and English portions of the day provide students with opportunities to assist and learn from one another, allowing second language acquisition to occur naturally.

The Two-way Language Enrichment Program is an “additive bilingual” program meaning that all students learn a second language without compromising their first language.

Program Design

- Mixed language classroom groupings - Children are only grouped by primary language for the reading/language arts block.
- Two teachers team (one bilingual / one English) at each grade level.
- Literacy skills are taught in the child's home language. (*Spanish or English*)
- All instruction is 50% Spanish and 50% English with the exception of Language Arts which will be taught in primary language until second grade.

Program Enrollment Guidelines

The enrollment process for entering the Two-Way Language Enrichment Program is lottery based with first placement priorities going to neighborhood students.

The enrollment cap for each section is 27 students in English and 27 students in Spanish. When each section is full, the school will begin a waiting list based on the drawn lottery order and secondly later enrolling students.

If a family has chosen to open enroll, placement will be based on space availability. Neighborhood families will always have first priority placement. Siblings will also have priority placements as research supports family involvement and program success.