

Spanish Immersion Program Puesta del Sol Elementary

The Bellevue School District Spanish Immersion Program is a K-12 program. Students enroll in to the program in kindergarten. It is expected that all Spanish Immersion students once enrolled, will follow a continuous, uninterrupted sequence of study throughout their K-12 experience in the Bellevue School District. Spanish Immersion is currently offered at the following schools:

**Puesta del Sol Elementary K-5
Tillicum Middle School Gr. 6-8
Newport High School Gr. 9-12**

A continuous sequence of study is the best way for the native English speaking Spanish Immersion student to become bilingual. The goal is to have Spanish Immersion students eventually reach an “advanced” (A.C.T.F.L Proficiency Scale) speaking level by high school graduation. This takes approximately 12 years of study for most students. It is also expected that the Spanish Immersion students will have mastered the specified district curriculum taught in this program.

It is recognized that a student may, for a variety of reasons, opt out or take a leave from the Spanish Immersion Program and wish to re-enter. Although this is not considered advisable, a student will be allowed to re-enter given adherence to the following guidelines and conditions:

1. The student’s leave from the program does not exceed one (1) school year.
Requests for re-entry after a leave of more than one (1) year will be denied.
2. Re-entry will require the student to be newly assessed for Spanish language ability. The assessment (i.e. conversation in Spanish, proficiency interview, paper and pencil test, etc.) will be conducted by staff members. The results of this initial re-entry assessment will provide a “success prediction” for the student. Informed decisions about the student’s continuance in the program can be made as a result of this prediction. The final decision regarding re-entry will be made by the building principal.
3. Re-entry in to the Spanish Immersion Program after a year or less out of the program will also require a conference with the building administrator. This conference will keep parents and students informed of current building enrollment concerns and other factors that may influence decisions.
4. Because Newport High School is a “closed” school and the Spanish Immersion Program is limited to one period of the day, certain restrictions apply to re-entry at this level for students who do not reside within the Newport High School attendance area. If a student wishes to re-enter the program at the high school level (Gr. 9-12) and the student lives outside the Newport High School attendance area, he/she may only enroll for the one Spanish Immersion class and must enroll at another high school for the remainder of the day.
5. Students who do not reside within the boundaries of the Bellevue School District will only be considered for re-entry on a space-available basis. All of the above conditions also apply.
6. Due to the Kindergarten waiting list at Puesta del Sol, students that move out of district or withdraw from the program during kindergarten are not eligible to return to the Puesta del Sol Program. Spaces will be filled by the next available name on the wait-list.