



Office of the Assistant Superintendent  
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3877 Fairfax Ridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

December 12, 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Kindergarten Students:

I am pleased to inform you about an optional program available to first graders in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The first grade partial-immersion programs in French, German, Spanish, and Japanese are offered at: Herndon, Kent Gardens, Orange Hunt, Fort Hunt, Lake Anne, Laurel Ridge, London Towne, Ravensworth, Rose Hill, Bailey's, Fox Mill, and Great Falls elementary schools. Registration is open to all rising first graders living in Fairfax County. Please be aware that FCPS does not provide transportation for students who reside outside the attendance area of the partial-immersion schools.

Attached is information about the program, the registration process, and the schedule of informational meetings. The same information is also available online at: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml#Anchor-Credit-21968>. **The online registration period for the first grade partial-immersion programs will be open January 3, 2012, through February 17, 2012.** If you do not have access to a computer, please consider one of the following methods: visit a public library to use a computer, make an appointment to register with the World Languages Team by calling 571-423-4602, or obtain a paper application from your elementary school. If you already have a child in the immersion program and want to have another child considered for the program, you **must register** the child through this process.

Informational meetings will be held at schools offering the partial-immersion programs. Parents are encouraged to attend one of these meetings before submitting an application online. The meeting at Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences will include information about their magnet program. To apply to Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, please contact the school directly at 703-575-6800.

Please contact the partial-immersion school principal or Paula Patrick, instructional coordinator, World Languages, at 571-423-4603, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Noonan'.

Peter J. Noonan, Ed. D  
Assistant Superintendent

PN/nt  
Attachments

cc: Cluster Assistant Superintendents

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**INFORMATION ABOUT SPANISH TWO-WAY IMMERSION KINDERGARTEN**  
**AND**  
**PARTIAL-IMMERSION WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

**What is Two-Way Immersion Kindergarten?**

Bailey's Elementary, Lake Anne Elementary, London Towne Elementary, and Rose Hill Elementary offer the Spanish Two-Way Immersion Kindergarten Program. The students who participate in this full-day kindergarten program come from one of two language backgrounds. Half of the students in the class come from families whose native language is English, and the other half from families whose native language is Spanish. The kindergarten program focuses on literacy skills in both English and Spanish.

The children are taught half of the school day in English and the other half in Spanish. The students who speak English learn literacy skills that are currently taught in English as well as literacy skills taught in Spanish. Through this exposure, they acquire the Spanish language. The students whose native language is Spanish acquire English literacy while learning literacy skills in Spanish as well, allowing them to strengthen their skills in both languages. Both groups benefit and are able to connect the skills learned across both languages. The instructional program follows the Fairfax County Public Schools Program of Studies for Kindergarten. Students who are accepted into the program will continue with their language acquisition through the Elementary Partial-Immersion Program already in place at the school in grades 1-6.

**What is Partial-Immersion in Grades 1-6?**

Through the partial-immersion model, students become proficient in a second language by using it as a medium for learning. In the partial-immersion programs, approximately half of the school day is spent learning the content of the Fairfax County Public Schools Program of Studies (i.e., math, science and health) in the world language; the remainder of the instructional program is conducted in English. Math, science, and health were chosen because they use manipulatives and concrete, hand-on activities, both of which help with the natural second language acquisition process.

**Program Sites and Informational Meetings**

The schools listed on the back of this sheet have immersion programs with enrollment open for kindergarten students and first graders for the 2012-2013 school year. Parents are encouraged to attend one of the informational meetings before enrolling their child. The dates for these meetings are included with this information.

**Criteria for Enrollment**

Both programs are open only to residents of Fairfax County.

Since the focus of the two-way immersion kindergarten program is on literacy skills in both English and Spanish, it is highly recommended that fifty percent of the class is comprised of students whose native language is Spanish and fifty percent whose native language is English.

There are no formal criteria for enrollment in the partial-immersion programs because experience and research indicate that students of most ability levels, and backgrounds can succeed in the partial-immersion model where math, science, and health are taught in the target language.

Students applying for the two-way immersion Kindergarten program should be five years old by September 30, 2012. Students applying for the partial immersion program should be six years old by September 30, 2012.

**Enrollment Procedures**

Parents should apply online at: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml>. If you do not have access to a computer, please consider one of the following methods: visit a public library to use a computer, make an appointment to register with the world languages team by calling 571-423-4602, or obtain a paper application from your elementary school. Students applying after the deadline date will be added to the end of the generated waiting lists according to the date the application is received. Parents will be notified during the week of **March 26, 2012**, about acceptance or placement on a waiting list for the partial-immersion program and for the two-way kindergarten immersion program parents will be notified during the week of **May 21, 2012**.

Transportation will not be provided for students residing outside the immersion school's attendance area.

## Program Sites and Informational Meetings for 2012-2013 Elementary Schools

LANGUAGE	GRADES	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	SNOW DATE	TIME
French	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Herndon	Jan. 10, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 24, 2012	7:00 pm
French	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Kent Gardens	Jan. 10, 2012	5:30 pm	Jan. 17, 2012	5:30 pm
German	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Orange Hunt	Jan. 5, 2012	6:30 pm	Jan. 18, 2012	6:30 pm
Japanese	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Fox Mill	Jan. 19, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 26, 2012	7:00 pm
Japanese	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Great Falls	Jan. 23, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 26, 2012	7:00 pm
Spanish	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Fort Hunt	Jan. 5, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 23, 2012	7:00 pm
Spanish	K & 1 <sup>st</sup> grade*	Lake Anne	Jan. 12, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 19, 2012	7:00 pm
Spanish	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Laurel Ridge	Jan. 23, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 25, 2012	7:00 pm
Spanish	K & 1 <sup>st</sup> grade*	London Towne	Jan. 11, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 25, 2012	7:00 pm
Spanish	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Ravensworth	Jan. 19, 2012	6:30 pm	Feb. 2, 2012	6:30 pm
Spanish	K & 1 <sup>st</sup> grade*	Rose Hill	Jan. 11, 2012	7:00 pm	Jan. 18, 2012	7:00 pm

\* There are seats available in the partial-immersion program for first graders.

Bailey's Elementary has a separate application process. Please visit Bailey's website at:  
[www.fcps.edu/BaileysES](http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES) or call: 703-575-6800