

# Chinese and Spanish Language Immersion Kindergarten in 2009-2010



## SPANISH IMMERSION OPTIONS AT: Clearview Elementary School

## CHINESE IMMERSION OPTIONS AT: Madison Elementary School

### What are the effects of immersion education?

A growing body of research on immersion education has shown that immersion students consistently meet or exceed academic expectations in the following areas:

**Second language skills:** Immersion students by far outperform students in traditional world language classes. They are functionally proficient in the immersion language and are able to communicate according to their age and grade level.

**English language skills:** In the early years of English instruction (K-2), there may be a lag in English reading and writing skills. By 5th grade, however, immersion students do as well or better than students in English-only classes.

**Content areas:** Immersion students achieve in academic areas as well as students in English-only programs.

**Cultural sensitivity:** Immersion students are more aware of and show positive attitudes towards other cultures.

### Immersion in St. Cloud Schools

The Language Immersion Model will be a school-within-a-school plan at Madison and Clearview Elementary Schools. The program began with kindergarteners in 2007. Each year, the program increases a grade level to ensure continuous programming for our students.

Our district's program is a full day kindergarten experience. Families who enroll their children in kindergarten are asked to make a seven-year commitment to the immersion program.

At grade 7, students would move to a middle level school where students would transition to partial immersion.

At grade 9 students would have a very strong foundation in the second language class and would have only one class in their secondary language, with the rest in English.

### Key Components of the Immersion Program

- The second language is the language of instruction for all classroom instruction in kindergarten.
- The curriculum parallels the district curriculum in all subjects. Students will be taught to read in the second language until the 3rd grade.
- There is direct instruction in English beginning in the 3rd grade for reading in English.
- Students will continue to be taught the other subjects in the second language through 6th grade.
- After two or three years in an immersion program, students demonstrate fluency and their comprehension skills are comparable to those of native speakers the same age. Research, however, has found that immersion students' second language lacks the same grammatical accuracy, variety and complexity produced by native speakers. To attain that skill level is a long-term process. Native-like proficiency in every skill area is unlikely.

Teachers are bilingual and licensed by the Minnesota Dept. of Education.

If you are interested in more information on enrolling your child in an Immersion program in St. Cloud Area School District 742, please attend the parent information meeting on:

**January 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Apollo High School, Room 415  
Enter Door #6**

You may also contact our *Schoolink* Welcome Center at 320-202-6897 or go online: [www.isd742.org](http://www.isd742.org) to find additional information about Language Immersion programs.