

# Public Schools of the Tarrytowns



## Juntos/Together Dual Language Program Information for Parents

For additional information, please contact  
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# What is a Dual Language program?

The Dual Language Program:

- ✓ is a bilingual program in which students learn in two languages
- ✓ has students who are native English speakers and native speakers of another language (ratio: 50/50)
- ✓ integrates linguistically diverse students for all or most of their academic subjects
- ✓ uses the other language for a minimum of 50% of the academic instructional time

## What are the goals of the Dual Language program?

Students in both language groups are expected to comprehend, speak, read, and write in English and Spanish. The students are expected to:

- ✓ meet or exceed State standards for academic performance
- ✓ develop proficiency in their first language
- ✓ develop proficiency in their second language
- ✓ develop an appreciation for cultural diversity

## What are the benefits of learning two languages?

It is estimated that half to two-thirds of the world's population is bilingual. Children who know more than one language have *intellectual, educational, personal, social and economic* advantages that continue throughout their lives.

- ✓ ***Intellectual:*** Research shows that knowing more than one language increases a person's thinking abilities. Bilingual individuals have greater mental flexibility and use those skills to their advantage in understanding math concepts and solving word problems.
- ✓ ***Educational:*** Preliminary research shows that on academic achievement tests both English-proficient students and English Language Learners in Dual Language programs perform as well as, or better than, their peers who receive all of their instruction in English. Students, who learn in their first language, while also learning English, do better in school and learn English better than those students who are instructed only in English. Developing children's first language does not interfere with the acquisition of English.

- ✓ **Personal:** Developing a child's first language helps the child to value his or her culture and heritage, thus contributing to a positive self-image. Learning a second language also develops an appreciation of other cultures.
  
- ✓ **Social:** When the native language is maintained, important links to family and other community members are preserved and enhanced. Learning a second language also provides the individual with the opportunity to reach out to members of other cultural groups.
  
- ✓ **Economic:** The demand for bilingual employees throughout the world is increasing. Knowing two or more languages is a great asset in the job market.