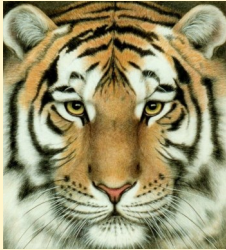




Oakley Elementary School's Dual Immersion FAQ

**Question: What is Dual Immersion and why is it beneficial for my child?**

Answer: The goal of this program is to promote bilingualism/biliteracy, academic achievement, and cross-cultural competencies for all students. Dr. Kathryn Lindholm-Leary, one of the countries leading experts on dual immersion programs defines them as: "[In dual immersion programs] English-dominant and target-language-dominant students are purposefully integrated with the goals of developing bilingual skills, academic excellence, and positive cross-cultural and personal competency attitudes for both groups of students." (Lindholm-Leary, 2001 pg. 30) In dual immersion programs, students learn content through both their native language and the target language.

Question: Why learn Chinese?

Answer:

- 1) Almost one quarter of the World's population speaks Chinese.
- 2) China has had the fastest growing major economy in the World for the past quarter of a century.
- 3) One of the US's top trading partners
- 4) Definite Edge in Competing for Jobs
- 5) Excellent option for College Application.
- 6) Mentally Challenging
- 7) Chinese Culture is one of the oldest in the World.
- 8) Never Been Easier– resources are become easily accessible
- 9) World Affairs– China is becoming very influential, not only in their economy, but politically and environmentally.
- 10) Many Languages are similar to Chinese

Question: How much time will be spent learning Chinese?

Answer: Fifty percent of the day will be spent in a Chinese classroom. The students will not work on learning the language, but rather be immersed in the language to learn their math and science content. No direct language instruction will occur.

Question: How will this impact my child throughout elementary school?

Answer: The 50/50 model (where students spend fifty percent of their day in their native language and fifty percent in the target language) will continue with them throughout elementary school. We will add on one grade level per year (starting with first, then second, and so on). By the time they leave Elementary school, they will be eligible to take high school courses in the language while in middle school. At the high school level, the students will be eligible for a dual enrollment program. Students have the potential to graduate with a minor in the target language!

"Building a Legacy of Excellence: Aim Higher and Achieve More"