“Utah’s Dual Language Immersion programs help to prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow. Dual Language Immersion gives students a tremendous and early advantage in learning to navigate the national, cultural, and linguistic complexities inherent in our increasingly global marketplace.”

—Gov. Gary Herbert, Utah State Governor

“In this increasingly competitive world, it is critical for Utah students to be able to deliver services and information in various languages and appreciate the subtleties of doing business in other cultures, much of which is learned through language study.”

—Howard Stephenson, Utah State Senator

“With dual language immersion, we have a way forward to ensure that Utah students are acquiring the skills, knowledge, and dispositions necessary to be competitive in the world marketplace.”

—Dr. Larry K. Shumway, Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction

“Utah’s Dual Language Immersion Program effectively provides an excellent strategy for Utah students to realize their potential to become an advanced multilingual workforce, better prepared for the challenges of the world economy”

—Lew Cramer, President World Trade Center Utah

The Utah State Board of Education is proud to support Dual Language Immersion programs in Utah public elementary schools in Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian.

For more information contact:
Georgia Geerlings
Utah French Dual Language Immersion Director
ggeerlings10@gmail.com

website:
www.utahfrenchdli.org

Utah’s
FRENCH
Dual Immersion Programs

Offering children the gift of a second language.

Participating School Districts:

Alpine
Cache
Canyons
Davis
Granite
Jordan
Park City
Provo
Tooele
WHY LANGUAGE IMMERSION?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of language immersion programs to help students attain high levels of second language proficiency. No other type of instruction, short of living in a second language environment, is as successful.

Young children especially thrive in this type of instructional environment. Happily, language immersion is also the least expensive way to deliver second language instruction.

PROVEN BENEFITS

Second Language Skills
Students achieve high proficiency in the immersion language.

Improved Performance on Standardized Tests
Immersion students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and math administered in English.

Enhanced Cognitive Skills
Language Immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills as well as enhanced understanding of their primary language.

Increased Cultural Sensitivity
Language Immersion students are more aware of and show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people.

Long Term Benefits
Language Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

• Maximize students’ second language proficiency
• Provide a rich academic environment
• Develop students’ abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
• Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community

WHAT TO EXPECT IN A DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Dual language immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language.

Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English, one French.

Students enjoy the advantage of two caring, qualified teachers. The English-speaking teacher uses half of the instruction day to teach English language arts (reading, writing, and spelling) as well as other subjects of the curriculum (science, social studies, math, etc.)

The French-speaking teacher uses the other half of the day to teach French literacy, math, and portions of social studies, art, science, music, P.E. and health topics from the grade-appropriate level of the Utah State Core Curriculum.

In class, the French teacher speaks only in French and communicates using a range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, drama, pantomime, etc. Children at this age are adept at picking up language in meaningful contexts. After a brief period at the beginning of the year, students too will speak only in French during French class.

You’ll be delighted how quickly your child becomes a comfortable and competent French speaker.

WHY FRENCH?

• French is one of the very few languages spoken all over the world. Currently, 270 million people speak French on the five continents and by 2050 the number will rise to over 700 million.
• The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market.
• French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theater, the visual arts, dance and architecture.
• France is the world’s top tourist destination.
• Speaking French opens up study opportunities at renowned French universities and business schools ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world.
• French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the Olympic Games, the EU, UNESCO, NATO, the Red Cross, and the IOC.
• French is the third most widely used language on the Internet and the third language for business, with 20% of international trade.
• French is an easy language to learn.
• French is a good base for learning other languages, especially Romance languages. 50% of current English vocabulary is derived from French.
• French is a beautiful, rich, melodious language, is an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Dual Language Immersion program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications are open to all students entering first grade. However, it may not be a wise choice for children experiencing significant communication delays in their primary language.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

• Commit to long-term participation in the language immersion program
• Develop an understanding of language immersion education
• Read with your child (in English) 20-30 minutes daily
• Encourage the use of French outside of school
• Provide community support and, when possible, volunteer
• Enjoy the challenges: celebrate the results

HOW TO ENROLL MY CHILD

For information about enrolling your child in one of Utah’s French/English Dual Language Immersion programs, please contact one of the school districts listed in front of this pamphlet.