



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

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# CONTENT

## **1. WHY HAVE A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL**

## **2. PREREQUISITES**

## **3. WHAT DOES A DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE**

# WHAT IS A DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM?

- The German Immersion/Dual Language Program provides students with the opportunity to acquire the skills for communicating in both English and German at a young age.
- The term **Dual Language Program** is used to describe an immersion program where both English Language Arts and German Language Arts are taught. Also, other core and additional subjects are taught in German.

# WHY HAVE A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL?

## **POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Adding an additional language in your school will increase students' ability to be prepared for a complex, culturally diverse world.
- Through exposure to other cultures students will be better equipped for the working world and the ability to apply 21st century learning skills.
- Second-language learners demonstrate enhanced empathy, awareness of diversity, tolerance of difference and greater sense of social justice.
- Second language learners demonstrate enhanced development of self-awareness as well as more positive attitudes and openness to other languages and their speakers and culture.

# WHY HAVE A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL?

## **POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL IMPACT**

- English language development
- Unique educational opportunities, e.g., exchanges, cultural events, interaction with fluent speakers, international exam accreditation, receiving potential interns from Germany
- Children receiving second-language instruction often show higher achievement in a range of subject areas, including mathematics, science and language arts.
- Increased graduation rates

# WHY HAVE A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL?

## **POSITIVE IMPACT ON TEACHING STAFF AND SCHOOL PROFILE**

- Increased opportunities for professional development for the teaching staff  
and
- Increased public visibility of the school through the support from the following German agencies and educational organizations:
  - Goethe-Institut
  - Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Zentralstelle für Auslandsschulwesen)
  - German American Partnership Program (GAPP)
  - American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)
  - American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

# PREREQUISITES: DO PARENTS NEED TO SPEAK GERMAN?

- The majority of parents with children enrolled in a Dual Language Program are **not** proficient in the language their child is learning.
- Parents can ask teachers for online resources to help their children acquire German.
- Parents are encouraged to read to their child every day in home language (English or other).

# PREREQUISITES: WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO BEGIN LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

- The earlier a child is exposed to another language, the greater their chance of learning to use the language like a native speaker.
- The more time children spend learning the language, the more proficient they will become.
- Most programs start at the Kindergarten level.

# WHAT DOES A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE?

- During German language instructional time, German dominates the classroom interaction, whether the teacher or students are speaking.
- Even in lower level classes, very little English is used during German time.
- German is the operating language of the classroom.

# WHAT DOES A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE?

- Children have fun as they learn. They learn to understand, speak, read, write and interact in German naturally and without stress. "Fun" activities are planned in German.
- The classroom climate is warm and accepting (in teacher-student interactions as well as among peers).
- The teacher is appreciative of and praises the children's efforts to communicate in German.

# WHAT DOES A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE?

- All students learn! No child needs to be afraid of making mistakes.
- Risk-taking is encouraged.
- Error correction is performed gently and tactfully.

# WHAT DOES A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE?

- The teacher does not translate.
- Instead, he/she facilitates understanding through the use of techniques such as gestures, mime and appropriate intonation.
- He/she is expressive and animated and uses concrete materials and audio-visual aids.
- Students develop language very quickly!

# WHAT DOES A GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE?

- Languages are not mixed.
- German is taught in longer blocks of time without exposure to other languages.
- This better allows students to "think" in German and allows for more natural language production.

**THANK YOU.**