OVERVIEW
Dual Language Immersion is a unique educational program that builds student bilingualism and bi-literacy in English and in Spanish. Instruction is provided by highly trained and caring teachers. Students continue to learn standards-based content while they become fluent in two languages; linguistically and academically.

The goals of the program include:

- **Bilingualism** - The development of high levels of proficiency in the student’s first and second language
- **Bi-literacy** - The performance at or above grade level in academic areas in both languages.
- **Multiculturalism** - To understand different cultures and the development of high self-esteem.

Students benefit from Dual Language Immersion because:

- Young children learn a second language more naturally at a young age.
- Bi-literate skills give students the options for careers requiring multilingual skills.
- The study of a second-language helps develop strong thinking and reasoning skills useful for problem-solving.

If you choose to enroll your child in the Dual Language Immersion program, it is important to consider:

- Parents must be actively involved in their child’s education using their home language.
- Attendance is critical. Every day counts!
- It is a long-term commitment. Students benefit when staying in the program through the years.

HOW TO ENROLL
The Dual Language Immersion Program (Spanish/English) begins in the Fall of 2010 at Edison Elementary School with Kindergarten, adding a new grade every subsequent year.

Parents who wish to enroll their Kindergarten student in the Dual Language Immersion Program must register at San Juan Central Enrollment no later than **March 15, 2010**.

Parents who are interested and want to learn more about the program may attend one of the following Dual Language Immersion Orientation meetings:

- **Wednesday, February 10** 9:00 am
  Edison Elementary School
  1500 Dom Way
  Sacramento, CA 95864

- **Thursday, March 4** 7:00 pm
  San Juan Unified District Office Board Room
  3738 Walnut Avenue
  Carmichael, CA 95608

- **Tuesday, March 9** 7:00 pm
  Edison Elementary School
  1500 Dom Way
  Sacramento, CA 95864

Valuing diversity and excellence, the San Juan Unified School District’s mission is to educate and inspire each student to succeed and responsibly contribute to a radically evolving world by providing innovative, rigorous, student-focused instruction and programs in a safe, caring, and collaborative learning community.

San Juan Unified School District
Division of Teaching and Learning
3738 Walnut Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95609-0477
www.sanjuan.edu
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is Dual Language Immersion and how does it work?
A: A Dual Language Immersion program brings together native speakers in two different languages where each is immersed in the new or “target” language. Instruction is carefully designed and conducted in both languages. As a result, both groups of students will become literate and fluent in both languages.

Q: Have dual language immersion programs proven to be effective instructional models?
A: Yes. University researchers have documented a very high rate of success in achieving academic proficiency for both Spanish and English-speaking children in these programs. Typically, both Spanish and English speakers achieve native or near-native fluency in their new language. On standardized academic tests, both groups outperform their counterparts who have been educated in monolingual classrooms. Spanish speakers also outperform their counterparts who have been educated in traditional bilingual classrooms.

Q: How do Spanish speakers specifically benefit from this program?
A: Spanish speakers get the chance to advance academically and socially while becoming bilingual. They can maintain their first language, Spanish, while learning a second language, English, as young students, when language acquisition is most effective. Spanish-speakers also gain socially by making friendships across cultural, ethnic and linguistic boundaries.

Q: How do English speakers specifically benefit from this program?
A: English speakers get the chance to acquire a new language in the early years when the brain is most receptive to new language acquisition.

Q: Will Edison Elementary become a total dual language immersion school?
A: No. The plans are to begin the program at Edison with two Kindergarten dual language immersion classrooms, side-by-side with the existing school community. It is important that this new program be integrated fully into the life of the school.

Q: What are the criteria for students to be in a dual language immersion program?
A: There are no specific criteria for students except parental choice. This particular program will be an available school choice during February and March of 2010, by completing the registration form. The program looks for a balance of students from each language community. First priority for placement will be given to students in the Edison enrollment area. Beyond that, parents may request placement in the program from anywhere in the district.

Q: When can students enter the program?
A: Typically, students should begin in Kindergarten or first grade, and commit to staying in the program through the duration for the program to be effective with the student.

Q: What are the district’s long-term plans for dual language immersion?
A: The district is committed to growing the Spanish/English program one grade each year until there is a seamless K-12 dual immersion program involving middle and high schools. The prospects of fully bilingual and bi-literate young adults emerging from this program are exciting. We will evaluate the program on an ongoing basis and annually to ensure quality and to make adjustments, and will involve our district leadership, parents, and teacher association in creating and sustaining a high quality program. We hope to add new language immersion programs in the future; most likely a Mandarin program.

Q: Where can I get more information on dual language immersion programs?
A: Additional information is available at the Center for Applied Linguistics and the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Language Instruction Education.

For program information, contact the Office of English Learners/Multicultural Education at (916) 971-5382.
For open enrollment information, contact San Juan Central Enrollment at (916) SAN-JUAN or (916) 726-5826.