

# how can my child attend?

- At Chugiak Elementary, the program runs kindergarten through fifth grade. The entry level is from kindergarten through the first semester of first grade. When space is available, Spanish-speaking students may enter the program at any grade if they meet certain Spanish literacy criteria.
- Parent permission is required and enrollment is determined by the Anchorage School District lottery system. There are currently two lotteries a year held in March and August. For more information please visit: [www.asdk12.org/choices/lottery](http://www.asdk12.org/choices/lottery).
- Once students are admitted in the program, there is no need to re-apply in the lottery each year. However, if a student exits the program, there is no guarantee that they will be readmitted at a later date.
- Students tend to achieve the most when families make a minimum seven year commitment to the program. This duration ensures full development of both English and Spanish literacy skills.



## spanish. immersion

CHUGIAK ELEMENTARY • MIRROR LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL • CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL

ANCHORAGE • ALASKA

For more information please contact:

Chugiak Elementary School: (907) 742-3400

Mirror Lake Middle School: (907) 742-3500

Chugiak High School: (907) 742-3050

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Anchorage School District  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

## Anchorage School District Chugiak Area K-12 Spanish Partial Immersion Program

Chugiak Elementary, Grades K-5

Mirror Lake Middle School, Grades 6-8

Chugiak High School, Grades 9-12

# spanish. immersion



Class of 2014

la cultura  
el lenguaje  
el camino

# benefits of being bilingual

- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language
- Increases understanding and appreciation of other cultures
- Promotes critical and creative thinking
- Increases job opportunities in many careers; there is an increasing demand for being bilingual
- Knowing two languages facilitates learning subsequent languages
- Immersion students at or beyond the 7th grade often outperform other students on standardized tests
- Gives students a head start in high school and college language requirements

## questions frequently asked

### Program History

The Spanish partial immersion program began at Chugiak Elementary in 1992, is the oldest Spanish immersion program in Alaska, and currently has a K-12 enrollment of roughly 500 students a year.

### What is Immersion?

Since the inception of French language immersion programs in Canada close to 50 years ago, countless research has been conducted showing the success and benefits of immersion education. Because immersion programs have the greatest amount of time dedicated to language learning, this is the program model that has the greatest success in terms of language outcomes (Curtain & Dahlberg, 2010). Immersion differs from traditional instructional approaches in which second languages are taught as separate subjects, in isolation from core content. Immersion refers to learning core content through a second language. As a result, students not only master subject area content, but also become bilingual when doing so. The Chugiak program is a Partial Immersion program, where students are immersed in Spanish for half of the school day at the elementary level, and for one or two class periods at the secondary level.

### What are the goals of an Immersion Program?

- Developing a high level of proficiency in the target language
- Developing positive attitudes toward those who speak the target language and their culture(s)
- Developing English language skills commensurate with expectations for students' ages and abilities
- Gaining skills and knowledge in the content areas of the curriculum in keeping with stated objectives in these areas

— Center for Applied Linguistics

To ensure student success, parental support is a key element. Because this is a K-12 program and involves the unique challenges of learning in two languages, it is critical that parents understand the program, support its goals, and make a long-term commitment to its philosophy.

### Curriculum

Students in the Chugiak Spanish Immersion Program learn the same Anchorage School District adopted curriculum as students in the English-only programs. At the elementary level students have two teachers: one for each language. They work as a team to integrate the required subjects: math, science, social studies, and English language arts. In addition, students also learn Spanish language arts. For example, the Spanish teacher may teach science, social studies, and Spanish language arts while the English partner teacher teaches English language arts and math. Subjects taught in one language are not repeated in the other language; however, teachers are able to complement what each other is teaching, showing connections and providing clarification when necessary.

At the middle school level (grades 6-8), students attend two classes daily: a Spanish language arts class and social studies. The curriculum is integrated and students learn social studies themes while reading Spanish literature and refining their writing and grammar skills. The content of the social studies classes mirrors that of traditional, non-immersion social studies content. At the high school level students attend one class per day.

### What is the ASD Language Immersion Completion Cord?

Students who complete the immersion program in their senior year earn the ASD "Language Immersion Completion Cord" to wear at the Chugiak High School graduation ceremony.

# course descriptions

### 6th Grade Spanish Language

Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and thematic units of study, integrating culture and the arts from various Spanish-speaking countries.

### 6th Grade 20th Century U.S. History

Students will learn the same content as the 6th grade social studies program, which includes key people of the 20th century and how important civic concepts apply to recent history.

### 7th Grade Spanish Language

Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Spanish literature.

### 7th Grade World Geography

Students will learn the same content as the ASD seventh grade social studies program, which includes Alaska and world, physical and political geography, and people and their relationship to their environment.

### 8th Grade Spanish Language

Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Spanish literature.

### 8th Grade U.S. History

Students will learn the same content as the ASD eighth grade social studies program, which includes historiography and American history themes.

### 9th Grade Vistas Juveniles del Mundo Hispano

Students will compare and contrast aspects of Hispanic culture with their own through in-depth study of themes such as families, ecology, immigration, heroes and leaders, and myths and legends.

### 10th Grade Perspectivas Literarias

Students will refine literacy and oral skills through new cultural perspectives using authentic texts and various genres. This is a preliminary course to Advanced Placement coursework.

### 11th or 12th Grade AP Spanish Language

Students develop their language skills in advanced composition and conversation in this beginning college level course. Students read, write, analyze, and synthesize information from authentic texts.

### 11th or 12th Grade Estudios Latinoamericanos

Students learn about contemporary and historical issues in Latin America while reinforcing and expanding their Spanish grammar, vocabulary, and fluency in this content-integrated course.

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Vistas Juveniles del Mundo Hispano	Perspectivas Literarias	AP Language or Estudios Latino-americanos	AP Language or Estudios Latino-americanos

