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A proud department of
[The School District of Osceola County, FL](http://www.osceola.k12.fl.us)
*Student Achievement -
Our Number One Priority*

We have wonderful news for parents and elementary school students of the School District of Osceola County! The Multicultural Education Department, and the Office of Choice and Charter Schools are expanding the Dual Language program. Beginning the 2011-2012 school year, the District will offer a Dual Language Academy at Kissimmee Elementary School and Ventura Elementary School.

What is a Dual Language Program?

It is an exciting and innovative educational model that integrates native English speakers and native Spanish speakers in a classroom. Children develop the ability to speak, read and write in English and in Spanish. Dual Language programs use two languages for literacy and content instruction for all students. The program provides the same academic content and standards as other educational programs, while providing students the unique opportunity of acquiring a second language.

Instructional Time

All students will be participating in a 60% English and a 40% Spanish instructional model.

Advantages for Students

- The program has a positive effect on intellectual growth.
- Appreciation for other cultures is an integrated part of the curriculum.
- Research and student's outcomes throughout the years have demonstrated that bilingual students outperform their peers on academic assessments/measures.
- Research shows that bilingual students demonstrate superior problem-solving skills because they are better at collaborating and seeing things in different perspectives.

What is the purpose of a Dual Language Academy?

The purpose of the Dual Language Academies is to provide students from neighboring schools the opportunity to participate in a research-based educational model that effectively develops high achieving, bilingual bi-literate students. The program follows the concept of a school within a school, in which four classes per grade levels (K-2) will be Dual Language classrooms.

Kissimmee Elementary School, a Dual Language Academy

Students from the following schools can attend Kissimmee Elementary School, a Dual Language Academy: **FLORA RIDGE ELEMENTARY, CENTRAL AVENUE ELEMENTARY, CELEBRATION K-8, HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY, PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY and THACKER AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Ventura Elementary School, a Dual Language Academy

Students from the following schools can attend Ventura Elementary School, a Dual Language Academy: **BOGGY CREEK ELEMENTARY, EAST LAKE ELEMENTARY, CYPRESS ELEMENTARY, PARTIN SETTLEMENT ELEMENTARY, NEPTUNE ELEMENTARY and LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY.**

An informative meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.** at Ventura Elementary School, a Dual Language Academy.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Education Department at **407-870-4848**.