



St. Ambrose Leads the Way with Unique Dual Language Program

For the second year St. Ambrose Catholic School is leading the way with its unique bilingual program. The Dual Language Program (DLP) at St. Ambrose is supported and guided by The Boston College Two-Way Immersion Network. The Program at St. Ambrose provides literacy and content instruction to all students through two languages (English and Spanish). This program is highly sought-after in the Fairfax County public schools and is popular among parents and students. For now, St. Ambrose is the only DLP school in the Diocese.

The program is implemented 50-50. Half the classes (math, science, and language arts) are taught in Spanish, and the other half of classes (social studies, religion, and language arts again) are taught in English. In addition, all special courses (Technology, Library, PE, Music and Art) are taught in English. The program began last school year with kindergarten only and will add first grade for the 2023/2024 academic school year, and subsequently adding a grade each year.

The goal is to develop global citizens who can connect language and culture. These insights into language and culture provide St. Ambrose students a crucial cultural perspective not only of the U.S., but of all Latin American countries. The program will:

- Continue to enable students to deepen their relationship with Jesus, broaden their knowledge of their faith tradition, and connect their faith to daily life;
- Equip students with the skills that will enable them to communicate bilingually and bicultural;
- Develop communication skills that allow students to compete effectively in a global community;
- Develop listening, speaking, reading, writing, and global competence skills in two languages;
- Develop proficiency in all academic content areas in the two languages;
- Use technology and other non-print sources to gather information in two languages;
- Increase awareness of students' own culture and appreciation of the culture(s) of others;
- Be taught through a cultural lens to allow students to view the world openly and to gain an understanding of other cultures at a deeper level;
- Allow students to develop a stronger bilingual identity; and
- Develop a love of learning the Spanish language with meaningful connections with all Latin American cultures.