

Dual Language Weekly Focus

Dual Language Moves to 4th Grade

Some considerations for 4th Grade (same as 3rd):

- **Instruction is 50/50 by content area and by time.**

- ▶ Reading/Language Arts
 - 60 minutes English
 - 60 minutes Spanish
- ▶ Math: 90 minutes English
- ▶ Science: 45 minutes Spanish
- ▶ Social Studies: 45 minutes Spanish

- **Partner Teaching between a Bilingual Teacher and an ESL certified teacher is an acceptable instructional model**

Bilingual Teacher: **ESL Teacher:**

SLA

ELA

Science

Math

Social Studies

- **Language of Assessment continues to follow the Language of Instruction**

- ▶ TAKS:
 - Reading: Spanish
 - Math: English
 - Writing: Spanish
- ▶ Benchmarks:
 - Reading/ Language Arts: Spanish
 - Math: English
 - Writing: Spanish
 - Science: Spanish
 - Social Studies: Spanish

- **What about writing instruction?**

Ideally, explicit writing instruction occurs within the context of literature and author studies. Students will naturally be writing in both the SLA and ELA portions of the day with connections to literature. When the SLA and ELA instruction is closely aligned in dual language classrooms; students are able to link what is learned in one language and transfer it to the other language. Therefore the English Language Arts block, when viewed as an extension of the Spanish Language Arts block, further develops the literacy skills of the student rather than confusing or hindering their progress in either language.

It is the expectation that students will take the TAKS Reading & Writing in Spanish, but literacy instruction in 4th grade (as in 3rd grade) will be in English and Spanish for equal portions of the day. Science and Social Studies are the content areas where students continue to develop Spanish writing skills just as Math Instruction can be used to further their English writing development.

Dual Language in 4th Grade

Furthering Vocabulary Development In English and Spanish

- *Utilization of the Specialized Content Area Vocabulary Enrichment activities serves two purposes for Dual Language students*
 1. Students learn the vocabulary of the content in the alternate language through an engaging, ungraded activity 20 minutes per week.
 2. Teachers are able to review with the students the content that has previously been taught
- *Bilingual Resource Center*
 1. Provides resources to the student in English and Spanish to assist student discovery in project based learning.
 2. Literature in a variety of genres in Spanish and English are excellent resources for student research and they promote wide-reading which is proven to build vocabulary and comprehension skills of the reader
 3. Beyond using literature for content research, there are vast resources in English and Spanish available for any given content that can enhance student discovery such as websites, menus, road maps, dictionaries, music lyrics, measurement tools, etc.