

Frequently Asked Questions

OHLSD Middle School Language Immersion

When the Board of Education approved language immersion as a district program in December 2016, what were the identified expectations for the middle school immersion program?

Oak Hills would explore offering the language immersion program at each middle school, the immersion course would be a 45 minute elective course offered each day and the course would be taught by current world language staff. Additional details for the course, such as the curriculum and content, would be determined at a later date.

When enrolled in the middle school language immersion program, will students have the opportunity to take additional elective courses?

Yes. The middle school language immersion courses are full year elective courses that will be offered in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Students will be able to take one additional full year elective course or two additional semester elective courses each year. Students may have to make a decision between language immersion and other elective course offerings, such as band and strings.

How is the middle school language immersion course designed?

The middle school language immersion course is a 45 minute elective course that integrates Utah's Secondary Spanish Language Immersion Courses with its Secondary Culture, History and Media Courses. These courses are designed to follow themes aligned to Advanced Placement Spanish language and Culture courses.

What is the language immersion curricular flow as students prepare for high school?

- 6th grade: Integrated Spanish Language Immersion and Culture, History and Media Course
- 7th grade: Integrated Spanish Language Immersion and Culture, History and Media Course
- 8th grade: Integrated Spanish Language Immersion and Culture, History and Media Course
- 9th grade: Integrated Spanish Language Immersion and Culture, History and Media Course
- 10th grade: Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture
- 11 - 12th grades: College courses, Post AP courses and Study Abroad

Where will the middle school language immersion program be offered next year? What is the process for determining where the middle school language immersion program will be offered?

OHLSD is currently reviewing student enrollment data for each cohort of students in the elementary language immersion program and exploring the feasibility of offering language immersion at each middle school. The challenge in this decision is due to how students transition from elementary to middle schools in our district. For example, students from J.F. Dulles Elementary attend Rapid Run Middle School, students from Oakdale Elementary attend Bridgetown Middle School, whereas, students from C.O. Harrison Elementary attend both Delhi Middle School and Rapid Run Middle School. These transitions leave one full class going from Oakdale to Bridgetown Middle School starting in the 2020-2021 school year and approximately a half a class going from C.O. Harrison to Delhi Middle School starting in the 2019-2020 school year and approximately one and a half classes going from C.O. Harrison and J.F. Dulles to Rapid Run Middle School starting in the 2019-2020 school year.

Following the middle school language immersion parent meeting, OHLSD will survey current 5th grade families to determine their commitment to the middle school immersion program. These data will be used to determine where language immersion will be offered next school year.



Is the district committed to the middle school language immersion program? What is the minimum number of students needed for language immersion to be offered at my middle school?

Yes, the district is committed to the middle school language immersion program. There is no defined minimum number of students needed for determining where language immersion will be offered at the middle school level. These types of decisions are multifaceted and are influenced by current staffing levels and student enrollment data in other courses that require similar teacher certification.

If the middle school immersion program is not offered in my home school, will transportation be provided?

The district does not plan to offer transportation at this time.

How do I ensure my student is enrolled in the middle school language immersion program?

Students must successfully complete the previous year’s immersion course to register for the next year of the program. When completing middle school registration, students must be registered for the grade level elective immersion course to be considered in the program.

Can students decline to take the grade level immersion course and still be considered in the program? Can students skip a year of immersion and get back in the program later?

Students not enrolled in the middle school elective immersion course are not considered in the program. Only students that have successfully completed the previous year’s immersion course will be permitted to enroll in the following year’s immersion program. As cited in board policy, students are required to successfully complete a language proficiency assessment to enter, or reenter, the program following first grade.

How will I know my child’s language proficiency is continuing to progress? Will a standardized language proficiency assessment continue to be used?

OHLSD has established benchmarks for language proficiency at each grade level. These have been and will continue to be communicated during grade level parent information nights at the beginning of each school year. Teachers will be using students’ current readiness and grade level targets to plan daily instruction and assessment for students. Families will be kept informed of student progress through the use of teacher created language proficiency assessments and standardized language proficiency assessments, such as the AAPPL or STAMP. The standardized language proficiency assessments are scheduled to be administered during targeted grade levels, such as 5th and 8th grade.

Will students receive high school credit when successfully completing middle school language immersion courses?

Similar to current elective world language offerings at the middle school, the district’s goal is to offer these courses for high school credit. To date, the process for earning high school credit has not been formalized. This information will be communicated during the middle school registration process.

Does Utah offer a 50/50 partial immersion experience in the middle school or high school?

Although not identical, the Oak Hills model has been heavily influenced by the state of Utah’s Dual Language Immersion Program. Like Utah, Oak Hills uses a 50/50 partial immersion model at the elementary level and then offers individual courses at the secondary level. In both models, the amount of instructional time taught in Spanish decreases when transitioning from elementary to middle school.

Who should I contact if I want to talk further about middle school language immersion?

To learn more about the immersion program at the middle school buildings, please contact:

Mr. Scott Toon, Principal Delhi Middle School (513) 922-8400	Mr. Geoff Harold, Principal, Rapid Run Middle School (513) 467-0300	Mr. Adam Taylor, Principal, Bridgetown Middle School (513) 574-3511	Mr. Corey Kessler, Director of Curriculum & Instruction PK-8, Oak Hills Local School District (513) 574-3200
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