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## Your Role

Parents in the McKinleyville Union School District are expected to read to their child for a minimum of 20 minutes a day in English. It is not required that you speak Spanish in the home. Your support inside and outside the classroom is encouraged. Your child's teachers and the Morris Parent Teacher Organization will inform you of opportunities to be involved at Morris Elementary.

## What Happens in the Classroom?

Our classes are similar to those at most schools with the California Standards being at the heart of the instructional curriculum. The uniqueness of our program is based on the language of instruction-50% of the day in English and 50% in Spanish. Children engage in whole-class, small-group, and individual activities. All our classrooms provide a safe and nurturing environment in which each child can flourish as they discover a second language. With a focus on diversity and multiculturalism we are preparing our children for success in a constantly changing global society.



# LANGUAGE IMMERSION

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## ENGLISH & SPANISH

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# P R O G R A M

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We offer a mature, well-tested program.  
The 2009/10 school year is our tenth anniversary.

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## Enroll Now

Students in Kindergarten and First Grade may enter the program with no prior Spanish language experience necessary. Pick up an application for the Spanish Immersion Program at Morris Elementary, MUSD District Office or Dow's Prairie Elementary, or call 707-839-1549 for more information.

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### Morris Elementary School

2395 McKinleyville Avenue  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

707-839-1529

### Morris Parent Teacher Organization

[morispto@gmail.com](mailto:morrispto@gmail.com)

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### MUSD District Office

2275 Central Avenue  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

707-839-1549

[mcknlyvl@nohum.k12.ca.us](mailto:mcknlyvl@nohum.k12.ca.us)

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## Advantages of Spanish Immersion at Morris

### *Our Students:*

- 🌐 Learn to read, write and converse in Spanish and English.
- 🌐 Acquire the knowledge and skills in all areas of District curriculum and state standards.
- 🌐 Retain their first language if they are native Spanish speakers while strengthening their English language skills.
- 🌐 Perform as well or better than their single-language peers on standardized tests.
- 🌐 Enhance English language development from an advanced understanding of communication and language structure.
- 🌐 Are proving the language acquisition research which indicates children who acquire a second language have an increased capacity for creative thinking and problem solving.
- 🌐 Learn to appreciate other cultures while deepening their understanding of their own.

### **Studies have shown that:**

- 🌐 Learning a second language at an early age develops pathways in the brain which make language acquisition easier later in life.
- 🌐 Speaking a second language offers increased personal and professional opportunities.

### **How It Works**

Morris uses a 50% immersion model in which classes are taught in English half the day and Spanish for the other half. Two teachers work in unison at each grade level. Students acquire their second language by hearing it spoken naturally in the classroom beginning in kindergarten. Reading, language arts and some math are taught in English. Social studies, mathematics and science are taught in Spanish. Math and science are subjects with many universal symbols, such as animals and numbers, which contribute to the understanding of the second language. Spanish is not taught as a subject. It becomes the language of instruction so students acquire Spanish while learning the District curriculum.

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## Our Philosophy

As educators and parents, we are preparing children to embrace the multi-ethnic and multi-lingual reality of today's world. We are driven to nurture each student's critical thinking and curiosity as he or she grows academically, with the goal of success in two languages.

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### **Current Immersion Parents' Comments:**

"My child is living proof that language acquisition is easier the younger the child is. I started Spanish (as a subject) in 7th grade, and by first grade he was already pronouncing words like "dinosaurio" better than I ever did. I'm very pleased with our choice to join this innovative program!" ~ Tawnya Rourke Kelly

"I am amazed at how children with no Spanish background are doing class work and following directions in Spanish during their 2nd grade year! My son wants to learn about other cultures now, rather than fearing or misunderstanding them. This program is truly a blessing to the North Coast." ~ Monica Bueno

"The immersion program at Morris gives children a chance to learn a second language when it should be taught: in their early years. It also provides advanced children an opportunity to stay engaged in the learning process. In the long term, we believe that speaking a second language will result in increased future educational and career opportunities and will help our children become global citizens." ~ Cheryl & Derek Kingham

"I was worried about my (very bright) child being challenged, but learning Spanish offered a refreshing twist, keeping him interested and engaged. It is a wonderful opportunity to have such a successful and progressive program available (free of charge) in our school district." ~ Micah Holmes

"I love the compliments my kids get when people realize that Spanish is their second language and that we don't speak it in the home. Not just their teachers, but native speakers have commented on how well they are doing! Thank you to Morris for giving them this opportunity!" ~ Cindy Allard

"We decided to send our son to Morris for a number of reasons. First, the majority of school aged children in California speak a language other than English at home - particularly Spanish. These kids will be our son's coworkers, bosses and political leaders during his life. Second, Mary is bilingual and would like our son to be too (dad really needs to get with the program...). And third, the world is a big place. Being able to speak Spanish will open up much of the western hemisphere to him. That's pretty cool." ~ Keith Bensen & Mary Glenn

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