



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2017

For more information:

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Dual Immersion Language Program Planned for Lynwood Elementary

Novato...A Dual Immersion English and Spanish program for Lynwood Elementary School beginning in the 2018-19 school year was approved by the Novato Unified School District Board of Trustees at their April 25, 2017, meeting.

The Dual Immersion Program will begin with *all* TK-1st grade classes at Lynwood Elementary School and then add one grade level per year through fifth grade. It was recommended by the Dual Immersion (DI) Task Force that the Lynwood DI Program be a 90/10 program meaning that instruction is given in Spanish 90% of the time and English 10% of the time for TK to First Grade. Each year, that percentage would change until fifth grade when instruction would be 50% in Spanish and 50% in English. As students matriculate, another grade level will be added to the program.

It was also recommended that the DI Program serve students in the current Lynwood Elementary School attendance boundaries first, with an opt-out provision for families that choose not to participate. This would minimize student shuffling, honor the original intent of launching DI at Lynwood Elementary School, and ensure a balanced mix of English and Spanish speakers.

For the past several years, NUSD staff and community members expressed interest in a Dual Immersion (DI) program. The district took several steps to learn more about Dual Immersion (DI) programs including:

- visiting DI programs at schools in Napa, Sonoma and Petaluma by a district team, and
- participating in a Dual Immersion 101 training offered by the San Diego County Office of Education. A team of six including a teacher, parent, principal of Lynwood Elementary School, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, the Superintendent, and a Trustee attended.

In December, 2016, the district began assessing community-wide interest in a DI program by conducting an interest survey and the results indicated a strong enough interest to warrant the establishment of a DI program.

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In January 2017, a Dual Immersion Task Force of community and district stakeholders was established and met monthly. The charge of the Task Force was to:

- Review and provide recommendations related to the development and implementation of a proposed Spanish-English Dual Immersion program at Lynwood Elementary School.
- Strive to reach consensus on recommendations related to the Dual Immersion program.
- Adhere to the timeline required for completion of the work.

A Dual Immersion Community Forum and an ELAC (English Language Acquisition Committee) meeting focused on Dual Immersion were held at Lynwood Elementary School on March 8 and March 9, 2017 in an effort to reach out to English and Spanish speaking stakeholders.

For more information, please visit the Dual Immersion webpage that can be found on the NUSD website www.nusd.org or <https://nusd.org/committees/dual-immersion-committee//>.

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