

Spanish Immersion at Highland Park Middle School

Parent/ Student/ School Agreement

Welcome to the Spanish Immersion Program at Highland Park Middle School!

A positive and successful experience on the HPMS Spanish Immersion Team is created when students, families and teachers have a common understanding of the expectations and then work together to make it happen!

Students will receive the **maximum benefits** of the immersion program at Highland Park Middle School if they have **strong Spanish literacy skills** and are committed to practicing their *reading, writing, speaking* and *listening* skills in Spanish **everyday**.

The Spanish Immersion program at HPMS offers many of the core curriculum classes in Spanish (Math, Social Studies/Humanities, Science and Spanish Language Arts). **In these immersion classes, all instruction and student work is done in Spanish** using the **same coursework** and **level of academic rigor** as classes taught in English. *For Spanish Immersion students, reading and writing in English will ONLY be taught in the English Language Arts, English Language Learner classes and Readers and Writers Workshop.*

In order for students to study math, social studies/humanities, science and *simultaneously* work to improve their level of academic Spanish, **we expect students and families to commit to the following:**

STUDENTS in the Spanish Immersion Program:

I will be an active participant in my education and improvement of academic Spanish language by:

- communicating solely in Spanish during immersion classes.
- completing coursework (in-class assignments and homework) in Spanish for immersion courses.
- seeking clarification when I have questions or don't understand course content, academic vocabulary, and expectations.
- seeking opportunities to practice Spanish outside of the classroom in meaningful ways.

I will practice my Spanish outside of school by: _____

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date

PARENTS/GUARDIANS of students in the Spanish Immersion Program:

I will be an active participant in the Spanish Immersion education of my son/daughter by:

- encouraging my children to participate fully in Spanish, complete their homework, and practice language skills at home (*reading in Spanish!*).
- trying to help my son/daughter understand content and/or assignment instructions even if I do not speak Spanish (*translation resources such as google translate can be very helpful!*)
- looking for opportunities outside of school to use the Spanish language and learn about cultures.

Possible opportunities for my son/daughter to practice Spanish outside of school include: _____

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Remember the Benefits of Dual Immersion!!

Research shows that students who participate continuously in an immersion program can become bilingual/biliterate and will, on average and over time, perform better than their single language peers on standardized tests!

Visit the HPMS Immersion Team webpage for links to the research. highlandms.spps.org