

The Partial German Language Immersion program is available to a limited number of students in grades one, two, three and four. If you are interested in having your child considered for placement in this program, please contact the School Registrar.

The German Immersion Program at Patch Elementary School offers two strands:

Multi-Age (grades 1-3) strand:

- Children typically enter in their first-grade year and remain in the class with the same teacher for three years

Graded strand:

- Offered in grades 1-4
- Children may enter at any grade level
- Children move to the next grade and a new teacher the following year

Primary considerations for placement in the German Immersion program:

- DEROS of at least 2 years
- First language spoken at home is NOT German
- No first-language acquisition delays



What are the benefits of becoming bilingual?

“Ich kann gut Deutsch sprechen, aber meine Mutti und mein Vati koennen das nicht so gut.” -- Anna, year 2

“Ich habe einen [deutschen] Freund Max und wir spielen immer zusammen.” -- Aidan, year 2

“Rebecca und ich gehen zum Pferdestall und wir reiten und spielen zusammen. Rebecca ist meine [deutsche] Freundin.” -- Riley, year 3

“Ich spreche nicht so gut Deutsch. Ich lerne Deutsch!” Eric, year 1

“Ich kann meiner Mutti und meinem Vati helfen wenn wir in ein Restaurant essen gehen.” -- Hannah, year 3

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Partial German Language Immersion Program



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What is partial language immersion (PLI)?

Partial language immersion is a means of acquiring a foreign language through content matter instruction in the target language for at least half of the school day.

What subjects are taught in the target language?

Subjects taught in German are math, science, social studies, health, and daily routines (Morning Circle, birthdays, calendar, clean-up, etc.).

What subjects are taught in English?

Subjects taught in English are the Language Arts (reading, writing, spelling).

What are the overall goals of partial immersion?

- To develop students' communicative ability (oral and written) in the German language
- To develop multicultural awareness and a more global perspective
- To interact confidently with host nation peers in social and academic settings
- To succeed academically in all subject areas



Why acquire a second language at an early age?

Research shows that PLI environments:

- Positively impact intellectual growth
- Exploit windows in children's cognitive development that begin to close by age 10
- Reinforce and expand language development in the child's FIRST language
- Create communicative abilities in a second language
- Develop flexibility in students' thinking
- Develop greater sensitivity to languages in general
- Improve listening skills
- Build strong cultural awareness and prepare students for participation in a global society

PLI Standards

Note: Stages do not necessarily correspond with the number of years in a language program.

Beginning Stage

Students will be able to:

- Follow oral directions
- Imitate sounds, words, and phrases.
- Communicate in simple words and sentences
- Experience host nation culture
- Copy and read symbols, words, and sentences
- List, identify, and label objects, concepts, and feelings

Intermediate and Extending Stages

Students will be able to:

- Interact orally and in writing in curricular content discussions
- Compose simple to complex sentences
- Decode a simple and more complex text with growing comprehension
- Respond in learned and original phrases to everyday and curricular situations
- Interact in cultural activities