No matter one’s first language, learning a second language is becoming critical as we become global citizens.

HISD’s Secondary School Dual Language program allows Elementary Dual Language students to continue to advance their biliteracy skills at a high academic level through middle and high school courses.

Through the program, Dual Language students continue to develop advanced Spanish literacy while participating in additional programming offered at their campus.

Dual Language schools also support biculturalism through exposure to customs, traditions, and unique traits of nations and people around the world.
WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM?

- Extend instruction in the two languages to result in higher levels of balanced language proficiency.
- The promotion of bilingualism, cross-cultural awareness, and high academic achievement.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROGRAM?

- An enriching bilingual environment that has full support of the school’s administrators, teachers, and parents.
- A middle school commitment of three years and a high school commitment of four years.
- A rigorous core academic curriculum that is aligned to state standards.
- An active parent-school partnership.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM STANDARDS?

- A Spanish language course and at least one core content course taught in Spanish in each grade level.
- Strategic use of language by the teacher during instruction. (No translation).
- Entry criteria for middle school is of a minimum of four years Dual Language experience. For high school, students must have three years of middle school Dual Language experience. Possible exceptions to this criteria may exist.
- An enrollment commitment from sixth grade through eight or ninth grade or ninth through 12th grade.

Students will be scheduled into AP Spanish courses where they have the opportunity to earn college credit by passing AP Spanish exams.
- Middle school students will earn high school credit through Spanish LOTE courses.

WHY IS DUAL LANGUAGE BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH SPANISH AND ENGLISH SPEAKERS?

- Spanish speakers maintain their first language while learning a second language.
- English speakers experience no risk to their dominant language. They are taught academics in Spanish with second-language approaches to ensure academic success.

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD BE IN A DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM?

- Being bilingual expands opportunities by enabling students to communicate and interact with more people from around the world, giving them the skills and knowledge to function competently and confidently in a global society.
- Dual Language students demonstrate greater academic, cognitive and social skills than those in all-English classes.