



## **Kindergarten Spanish Dual Language Program**

**2017 -2018**

This program is offered based on demand. A minimum of 36 students must be enrolled in the program for it to be feasible. Two classes will be formed based on student's previous exposure to Spanish language. In order to place students in the best educational setting, parents must be clear and forthcoming in disclosing what, if any, level of exposure students have had to Spanish language. If more than 22 students are eligible for either class by **June 2nd, 2017** then, all eligible children, regardless of when the initial registration occurred, will be selected via lottery to fill the slots. The intended outcome will be to fill 2 classes, one with students with little or no exposure to the Spanish language, and one with students who have had some to extensive language exposure. This lottery, if necessary, will be held at the school on or about **June 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2017** (at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Center). Eligible students not selected will be placed on a waiting list in the order selected from lottery after the initial cohort of students is selected. We do not make any special considerations for students with siblings in the program.

All students who wish to be eligible for this program will be required to take a readiness screening at the school. This program requires a great deal from students since they are learning another language for about 40 percent of the day, while learning the usual grade level objectives in about ½ the time as other Kindergarten students. Our experience has clearly shown that students in this program must have acquired certain academic skills prior to Kindergarten and able to learn new concepts quickly in order to be successful in the English and Spanish Kindergarten curriculum. The English language readiness screening will include: Letter identification, beginning sounds, reading basic sight words, shapes, colors, number identification, and basic addition and subtraction concepts.

The goal of our dual language program will be to immerse Kindergarten students for a significant part of the day in a foreign language. In our case, it will be Spanish. One teacher will almost exclusively speak to students in Spanish in the subjects of Language Arts, Reading, Science and Social Studies. These subjects will occupy approximately 2 hours in a day. The remaining time, students will receive additional Language Arts, Reading, Science, Mathematics, Art, Music and Physical Education, in the English language.

Kindergarteners will have two teachers during their day. One will be the English language teacher and the other will be the Spanish language teacher. Both will plan together and work together to integrate the curriculum wherever possible to reinforce lessons.

Students who enroll in this class will be expected to continue in this program throughout their K-5 years in our school, and they are expected to be fluent Spanish speakers by the time they complete their elementary years at Aventura Waterways K-8 Center. Note that parent involvement and support will be critical in the success of the child in this program.