



La Academia

Language • Academics • Culture

Forms to be turned into the Welcome Center:

- Birth Certificate
- Registration documents
- Signed Parent Agreement/Contract

Building on the linguistic and cultural assets of our school community, La Academia empowers all to be engaged leaders who are critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and lifelong learners.

Academic excellence is fostered through personalized learning experiences that prepare students to be bilingual and biliterate global citizens who promote multicultural understanding.

- Your registration date is confirmed when the Welcome Center receives all documents needed to register at La Academia; including: *application documents, birth certificate, and this contract*. Up-to-date immunization records and preschool screening results should also be submitted for incoming kindergarteners.
- A dual language program requires experiences with both language and culture; therefore, La Academia integrates language, academics and culture.
- The ratio of Spanish to English begins at 90/10 in our two-way dual language immersion program. Formal instruction begins in Spanish in all content areas in kindergarten. Formal English literacy instruction is introduced mid-way through second grade. English instruction increases in other content areas in third and fourth grade, until instructional time in fifth grade is 50/50.
- To maintain the integrity of the program, and support program goals, classes are made up of at least one-third Spanish-speaking students and at least one-third English-speaking students.
- Siblings and children of staff are given preference at registration. Parents of siblings are not asked to attend additional program meetings, and may request a copy of this form from the office for siblings. Siblings must be registered by January 15 Kindergarten registration date to receive this preference.
- Students enter La Academia in kindergarten. The ability to enter La Academia in another grade is made on a case-by-case basis and is dependent on Spanish language ability and reading skills.
- Our average kindergarten class size target will be approximately 24 students. Completed enrollments received by 11.59 p.m. January 15 with all necessary forms, including this contract, will be considered for initial enrollment. If the number of initial enrollment requests for native English speakers and / or native Spanish speakers exceed the seats available to maintain the ratios needed for our dual immersion program, students will be identified for placement in this priority: 1. Students who will have a sibling in the program next year; 2. Children of La Academia staff; 3. a lottery to identify students for additional seats available. Students not admitted through the lottery will be added to a wait list based on the completion date of all enrollment materials. Any enrollments completed after January 15 will be admitted if space still exists in the program or will be placed on the waitlist based on completion date of all enrollment materials.
- Based on research-supported findings, La Academia will maintain as its goal for students to ultimately perform at or above their grade-level peers on standardized tests in English. However, a temporary lag is expected while the instruction is in Spanish. This discrepancy disappears after a year or two of instruction in English Language Arts for English-speakers (Genesee, 1987) and by middle school for Spanish-speaking English learners (Lindholm-Leary, 2001).
- To maintain the integrity of the program and support program goals, there will be a language use policy for parents, staff, visitors and volunteers.

Families are expected to commit to the full elementary sequence (K-5).

I understand and support the vision of La Academia and the above practices for ensuring program excellence.

Parent Signature

Date

Print Child's Full Name

Sibling(s) enrolled at La Academia

Native Language