

# Dual Language Immersion Newsletter

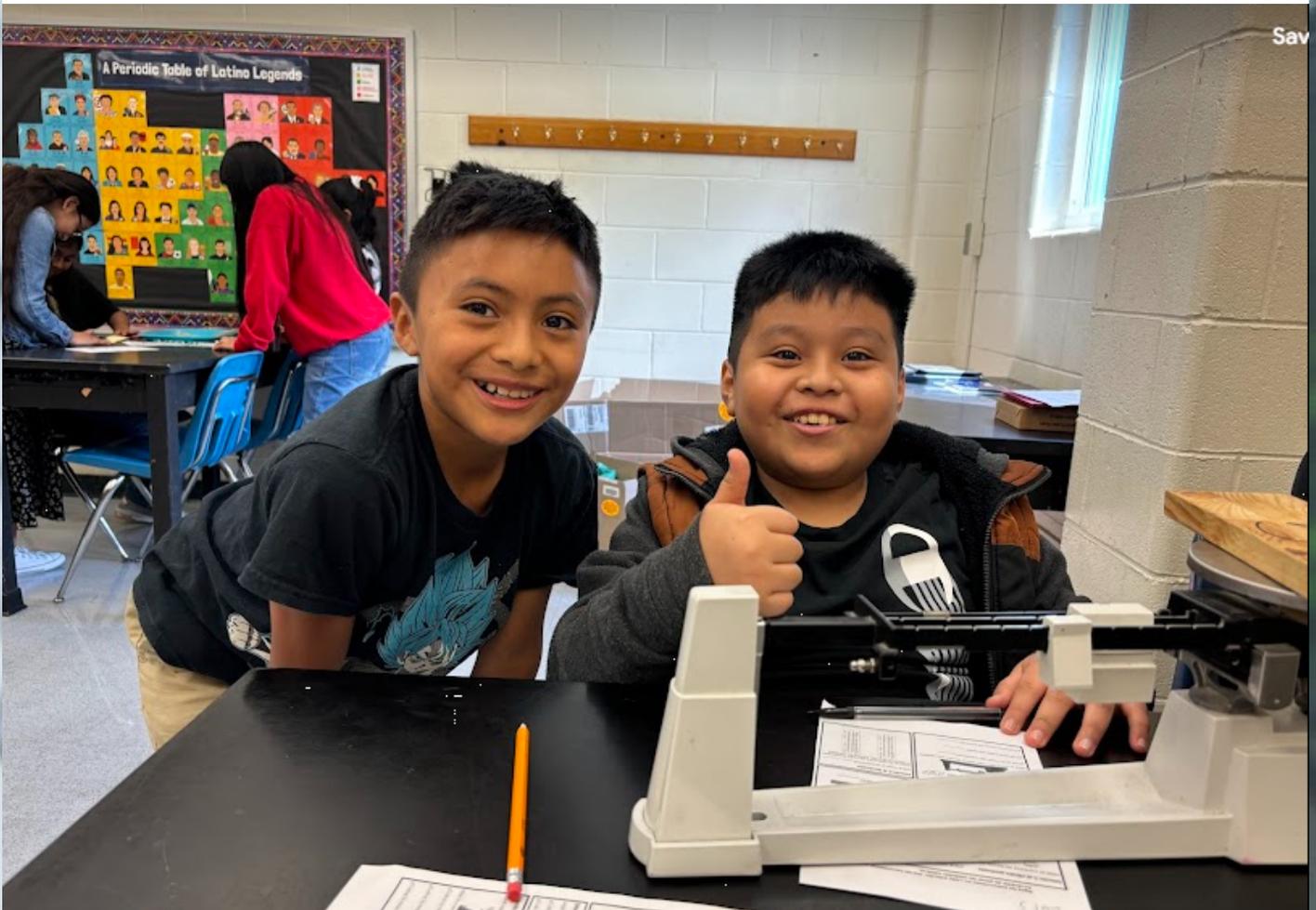
Fall 2024 (Haz click abajo para español)



## Boletín del programa de DLI

Boletín del programa de DLI - Otoño 2024 (Click below for English) by Sarah Olsen | This newsletter was created with Smore, an online tool for creating beautiful newsletters for individual educators, schools and districts

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Get Ready for a Great School Year!

The Newport News team worked hard all summer to ensure a fantastic school year, and our students are already off to a great start! Our Dual Language Immersion (DLI) students in PreK through 5th grade follow the same curriculum as their non-DLI peers, with the added benefit of explicit instruction in Spanish literacy. Science, Social Studies, and Literacy alternate between English and Spanish, while Mathematics is taught in Spanish with English bridging lessons to provide access to content in both languages.

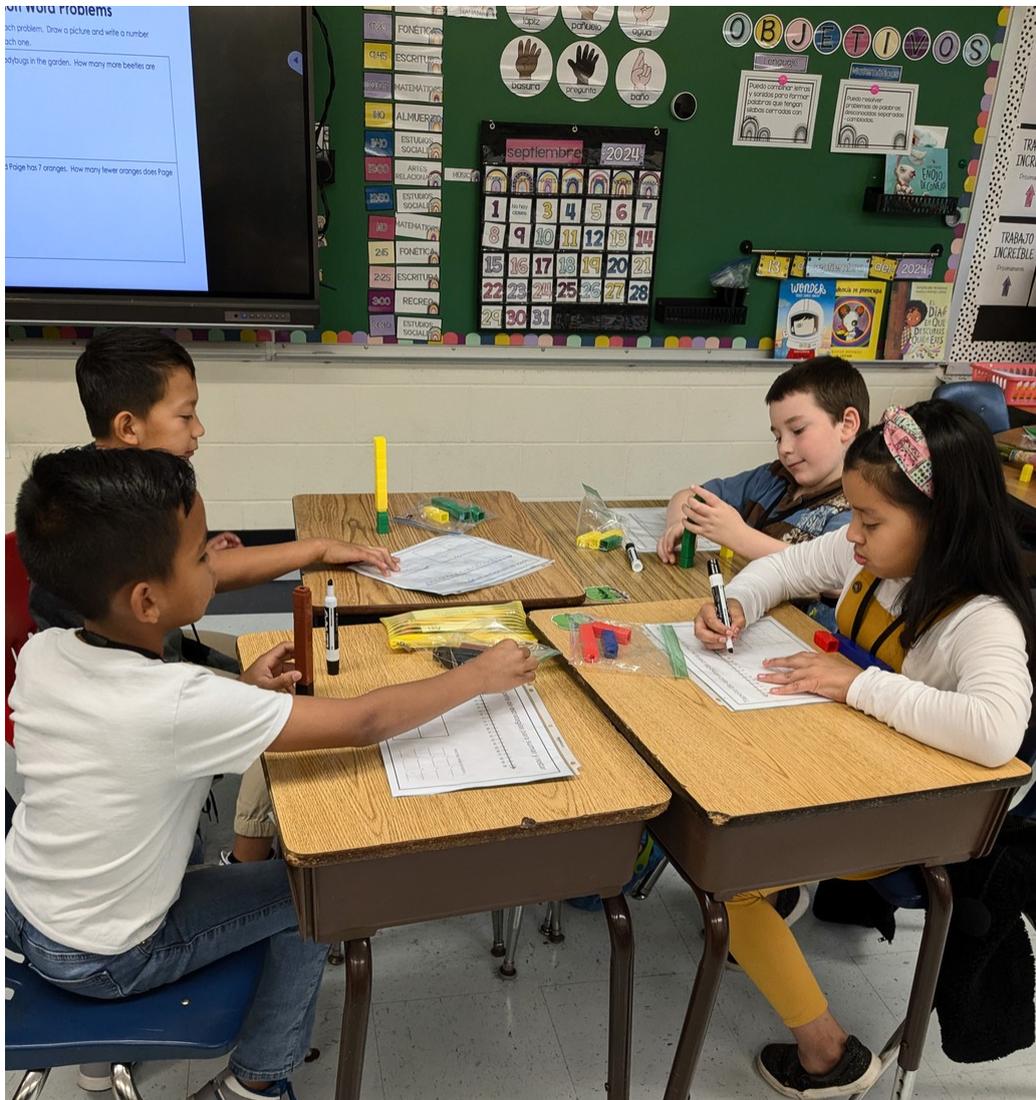


In middle school, our DLI students at Gildersleeve continue building their biliteracy skills. Science in Spanish is offered for grades 6, 7, and 8, while Social Studies in Spanish is available for grades 7 and 8. Additionally, students in grades 6 through 8 take a specialized Spanish Language Arts class designed to deepen their understanding of the language and improve their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This program helps our students continue to grow as bilingual learners while further strengthening their biliteracy skills.

At Menchville High School, our students take an advanced Spanish class that prepares them for the assessment, which leads to the Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma. To earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in both English and Spanish.

Our teachers are eager to partner with families to make this school year successful! Whether your child is in PreK, high school, or somewhere in between, we are all working together to provide the best educational experience possible. Please ensure your child arrives to school on time, stays for the entire day, and attends regularly when healthy. Excessive absences make it harder for students to keep up with content and can cause them to miss important skills.

Let's work together to make this a great year for all of our students!



## September and October—Two Months of Celebrations

This fall, Newport News Public Schools proudly celebrated two significant events—Hispanic Heritage Month and the Month of the Bilingual Child. These celebrations, which took place in September and October, highlighted the rich cultural diversity and the unique language abilities of our students, families, and community.

**Hispanic Heritage Month**, which runs yearly from September 15th to October 15th, was a time to honor the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans on our history, culture, and society. During this month, our schools engaged students in a variety of activities, exploring the vibrant traditions, stories, and achievements of Hispanic people, both past and present. Students participated in art projects, cultural presentations, and book readings, gaining valuable insights into Hispanic culture.

October is also recognized as **The Month of the Bilingual Child**, a special time to celebrate the linguistic abilities of our students' learning and what it means to grow in two languages. Our Dual Language Immersion program continued to nurture bilingualism and biliteracy in students from PreK through high school. We celebrate the hard work and dedication of our bilingual learners, because being bilingual opens doors to new cultures, perspectives, and opportunities.

We are proud of the richness of our cultures and the power of being bilingual!



## Celebrating the Expansion of our Program!

We are thrilled to continue the expansion of the Newport News Public Schools' DLI program! What began as a visionary initiative to provide students with bilingual and biliteracy skills has now grown to reach even more students and families across the district.

This school year, our original Dual Language Immersion program has expanded all the way to 10th grade. Our students at Watkins Early Childhood Center, Saunders Elementary, Gildersleeve Middle, and Menchville High School are continuing their biliteracy journey with great success. This expansion means that our students, who began their DLI experience as young learners, now have the opportunity to continue growing their Spanish and English language skills through their high school years. We look forward to celebrating their future accomplishments as they work toward the Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas.



In addition, we are excited to announce the continued growth of our new Dual Language Immersion sites at Denbigh Early Childhood Center and Katherine Johnson Elementary. This expansion began in 2022 with PreK students at Denbigh and Kindergarten students at Katherine Johnson. Last year, the program expanded to include 1st grade, and this year, we are proud to have expanded once again to 2nd grade. These new sites, partially funded by a DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity) grant, provide more students with the opportunity to develop bilingual and biliteracy skills at an early age, creating a strong foundation for future success.

We are incredibly proud of the growth of our DLI program and the commitment of our district leaders, teachers, students, and families. Together, we are building a strong foundation for lifelong learning, cultural appreciation, and academic achievement.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this expansion and made it possible for us to provide this enriching educational experience to even more students. We are excited to see what the future holds as we continue to grow and celebrate the successes of our Dual Language Immersion program!



## PreK-Third Grade Field Trip to see 123, Andrés in Concert!

Our DLI students in PreK through 3rd grade from Denbigh Early Childhood, Watkins Early Childhood, Katherine Johnson Elementary, and Saunders Elementary recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a live concert featuring the dynamic Latin Grammy-winning duo, 123 Andrés! Nearly 450 students joined together for a lively performance filled with singing, dancing, and interactive fun. The show captivated our young learners, who participated enthusiastically and showed wonderful behavior throughout the event.

It was truly a joy to see our students so engaged, expressing themselves through music and movement, and connecting with both Spanish and English songs, while also learning some sign language. This memorable experience not only brought our DLI community together but also highlighted the joy of learning through music. We love getting to see our students experiencing enriching adventures like this!



## Announcing The Path to Biliteracy: A New Way to Celebrate Student Achievements!

We are excited to introduce *The Path to Biliteracy*, a new recognition program for students in Newport News Public Schools' DLI program. This initiative allows students to earn badges as they complete key milestones in the DLI program and promote to the next grade level.

Each badge in *The Path to Biliteracy* represents an important step in our students' journey toward becoming bilingual and biliterate. Students can earn badges at specific points in their academic journey:

- **Level One: Early Language Explorers** – Awarded to students for completing PreK
- **Level Two: Building Biliteracy Bridges** – Earned after completing 5th grade
- **Level Three: Navigating Across Languages and Cultures** – Given at the end of 8th grade
- **Level Four: Mastering the Biliteracy Journey** – Presented to students who complete 12th grade, marking their achievement as they work towards earning the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy

We are also excited to announce that students who have already completed a level will retroactively earn that badge at their next promotion ceremony, in addition to the badge for their current grade level. For example, if a student completed PreK and is now in 1st grade, they will receive the Early Language Explorers badge at their next promotion, along with future badges as they continue in the program.

*The Path to Biliteracy* celebrates the hard work and dedication of our students as they develop the skills needed to thrive in two languages. This recognition program not only acknowledges their academic accomplishments but also reinforces the value of bilingualism and biliteracy in our global world.

We are proud to celebrate our students' achievements and look forward to seeing them earn these badges as they progress through the DLI program!





# Three Pillars of Dual Language Education



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**Newport News DLI Website**



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