An overview of Dual Language in Katy ISD

What is Dual Language?
Dual Language programs promote bilingualism and biliteracy, high levels of academic achievement, and positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors in all students. This differs from the transitional bilingual program, in which Spanish is used only until students transition into English. Students in Dual Language programs remain in the program throughout the elementary grades, even after fluency in English is obtained.

Katy ISD currently has two types of dual language programs:
The One-way Dual Language program is designed for Spanish-speaking students (one population of students). This has replaced the transitional program in grades PK-1, and will continue to be phased in one grade level at a time through fifth grade. By the 2008-09 school year, it will be in place in grades PK-2. This program is available at all bilingual campuses.

The Two-way Immersion program integrates native English speakers and Spanish speakers, providing instruction in both languages for all students. This program will be offered at Memorial Parkway and Fielder Elementary schools beginning in 2008-09 for selected incoming Kindergarten students. Students zoned to all Katy ISD elementary schools can apply for the program. However, space is limited and testing requirements apply. For more information, please contact Kathleen Collins, Bilingual Program Facilitator, at 281-642-6555.

How is the Dual Language program structured?
Dual language classes are based on a 50/50 simultaneous literacy model. Fifty percent of instructional time is in English and fifty percent in Spanish. The percentage of instructional time in each language will remain the same throughout all grade levels. In Pre-K and Kindergarten, students are instructed on a rotational day model—one day English, one day Spanish. Students receive instruction in all core subjects in both languages. In first grade, students spend half day in English and the other half in Spanish. Students will have a Language Arts block in both languages. Science instruction is primarily in English and Math instruction is primarily in Spanish. However, vocabulary is introduced in both languages. Content instruction is integrated with Language Arts in order to reinforce learning and vocabulary in both languages.