

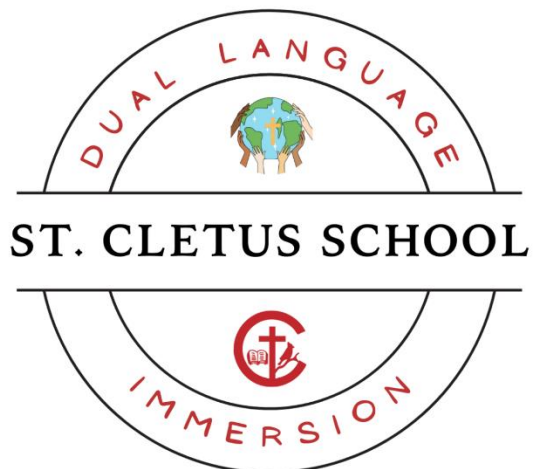


St. Cletus School

FAITH FAMILY FUTURE



DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

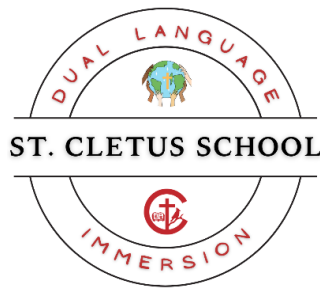


Working in collaboration with
the University of Notre Dame
and the Archdiocese of Chicago.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO





Dual Language Immersion Program

What is the Dual Language Immersion program?

The Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program is a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and academic content in Spanish and English. It offers a unique opportunity for students to excel academically and learn a second language. Our DLI program will foster:

- bilingualism
- bi-literacy
- enhanced awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity
- high levels of academic achievement through instruction in two languages

What are the benefits of the DLI program for students?

- Students develop academic proficiency in Spanish and English.
- Studies show that students perform as well as or better than their peers in non-dual language classrooms.
- All students develop a positive sense of self and an understanding of other cultures.
- Students also develop intercultural and global abilities that prepares them to succeed in today's increasingly competitive global society.

Language allocation by grade level

Grade Level	% in Spanish	% in English
Pre-K (4-year-old)	90%	10%
Kindergarten	80%	20%
1st Grade	70%	30%
2nd Grade	65%	35%
3 rd Grade	60%	40%
4 th – 8 th Grade	50%	50%

Program Development and Timeline

Preschool through 4th grade was introduced at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Kindergarten will be added at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, with additional grade levels to follow annually. Please see the chart below for details.

Grade Level	Start
Pre-K (4-year-old)	2024-2025 School Year
Kindergarten	2025-2026 School Year
1st Grade	2026-2027 School Year
2nd Grade	2027-2028 School Year
3 rd Grade	2028-2029 School Year
4 th Grade	2029-2030 School Year
5th Grade	2030-2031 School Year
6 th Grade	2031-2032 School Year
7 th Grade	2032-2033 School Year
8 th Grade	2033-2034 School Year

St. Cletus School will still offer a traditional track, where students are taught all core subjects in English. For students in the traditional track, they will receive instruction in Spanish only during their weekly Spanish class. Specials classes (Gym, Music, Art and Technology) for both DLI and traditional students will be in English.

For additional information, please contact Frank Ochoa at fochoa@stcletusparish.com

This program is being offered at St. Cletus School in partnership with the University of Notre Dame and the Archdiocese of Chicago.



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St. Cletus School launches dual-language program

By Kevin Beese Staff Writer — September 11, 2024



St. Cletus School teacher Nairely Nieves reads a book written in Spanish to preschoolers in the dual-language program. The La Grange school is the first suburban school in the Archdiocese of Chicago to offer a dual-language program. (Photo by Kevin Beese/Chronicle Media)

Half of the preschoolers at St. Cletus School in La Grange are spending almost all of their school day immersed in Spanish — and are doing just fine.

St. Cletus is the first suburban school in the Archdiocese of Chicago, which covers Cook and Lake counties, to offer a dual-language program. Starting with this year's preschool class, St. Cletus' parents have the option to have their child in a traditional classroom setting or the dual-language program.

Every year going forward, there will be a dual-language class added, meaning for the 2025-26 school year, St. Cletus will offer a dual-language option for both preschool and kindergarten.

"The hope is to get all the way to eighth grade where we'll have a traditional English classroom for each grade and the dual-language immersion, so the parents can decide do they

want to keep their child in the traditional track or do they want to do the dual-language track," said Frank Ochoa, dual-language immersion coordinator at St. Cletus School.

He noted that 90 percent of the preschool curriculum for the 19 preschoolers in the dual-language program is taught in Spanish to immerse the students in the language.

Gregory Porod, principal at the La Grange school, said the dual-language program has only been up and running for a few weeks and the preschoolers are embracing the two languages.

"They're starting to pick up on some words," Porod said. "It's intriguing to see it happening."

Ochoa said with any language there are steps to acquiring the language, such as comprehension.

"We'll give them instructions in Spanish. They may respond in English, but they are understanding what we're saying," the immersion coordinator said. "Then they'll reach the point where they're comfortable speaking it, and then when they get into the upper grades, they'll be more comfortable reading it, and then finally writing it."





Early childhood students, communities benefit from learning in second language

By **Michelle Martin** | Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 17, 2024



Preschool students in the ECLIP program at St. Cletus School in LaGrange, gesture on Jan. 10, 2024. (Sara Hodak/St. Cletus School)



Early childhood students at 17 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago are getting daily instruction in a second language, usually Spanish, in a program that educators call a win-win-win for students, families and schools.

The Early Childhood Language Intensive Program, known as ECLIP, offers at least 30 minutes a day of instruction in a second language, almost always Spanish, to early childhood students, with a goal of helping students both speak and read and write in the second language.