

# First Grade

Welcome back to school! We are pleased and honored to be teaching your child in two languages again this year.

Our program is a special program, as you know, and it is a program of enrichment. We work very hard to keep developing it and improving it. As our program has developed, we have clarified the expectations for the staff, students and parents involved. This letter is to let you know what you can expect your child to be learning this year in his/her second language, and what you can do to help.

For the first half of the year, the teacher will accept whatever language the child speaks, and answer in the “target language.” For example, a child might ask, “Can I go to the bathroom?” and the Spanish teacher will answer, nodding, “Si, puedes ir al baño.”

In the second half of the year, the students will be expected to attempt Spanish. If a child asks, “Can I go to the bathroom?” the teacher might say, “¿En español, por favor?” and remind the child how to ask her in Spanish. If a child has something more complicated to say, the teacher may still accept English. But the push is to get students used to expressing themselves in Spanish. The teacher will not use any English during Spanish time.

The same is true of writing. At the beginning of the year, students can write in their home language. But during the year they will be expected to sprinkle more and more words of the “target language” into their writing during Spanish time. They are encouraged to ask Spanish-speaking classmates for help with this, or to use the classroom environment as a resource.

By the end of first grade, you can expect your child to:

- Understand most or all of what the teacher is saying in Spanish
- Use Spanish in everyday interactions around the classroom
- Begin to read and write in Spanish

You can help at home by:

- Promoting the attitude that your child can and will learn a second language.
- Addressing behaviors which interfere with your child’s full participation in the program
- Maintaining 95% attendance or better
- Keeping a Spanish-English dictionary at home for your child’s use and your own use
- Encouraging your child to exchange phone numbers with a classmate who can help with homework in Spanish

## Homework

Students are expected to do homework in the target language (the language the homework is written in) unless otherwise stated. Homework directions will be translated when necessary for parents to be able to understand and support their children.