

Immersion

At Avenues, learning another language is more than an academic pursuit; it is a daily practice that transforms the way students see and think about the world.

We don't teach Chinese or Spanish; we teach in Chinese or Spanish. Daily exposure to authentic language input through a student-centered approach builds language skills by engaging in active, meaningful communicative tasks and projects. The students build fluency in a world language by studying in the target language.



Immersion by numbers

11.9%

of the world's population are native Chinese speakers

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5.9%

of the world's population are native Spanish speakers

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4.9%

of the world's population are native English speakers

—

3,000+

Number of e-books in Spanish and Chinese available through our library

Benefits of bilingualism

Studies have demonstrated benefits in the following areas:

COGNITIVE AND HEALTH

- Improved executive functioning
- Increased and sustained focus
- Switching attention from one topic to another
- Retaining information in mind
- Deeper cross-cultural understanding
- Improved self-esteem
- Enhanced professional competitiveness

MENTAL FLEXIBILITY

- Metalinguistic awareness (the ability to understand how language works)
- May help prevent or delay the onset of dementia and alzheimers later in life
- Increased adaptability and ability to see situations from different perspectives

ACADEMICS

- As good or better performance than non-immersion peers on standardized measures of literacy and numeracy administered in students' first language.

Immersion at Avenues

- Small World students (age 2) have daily exposure to English, Chinese and Spanish through read-alouds, songs and immersion-style instruction to build confidence and communication skills.
- In the Early Learning Center (nursery, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten), students benefit from an immersion program with English and a target language of either Spanish or Chinese. Each classroom has a full time English language teacher and a native Chinese or Spanish language teacher. A third bilingual teacher joins the class for part of the day as well.
- In the Lower Division, students students engage deeply in academic content in both English and their immersion language. Students build fluency as they progress through—rather than repeat—academic material while switching between languages.

“ We know that people who speak more than one language fluently have better memories and are more cognitively creative and mentally flexible than monolinguals.”

Alison Mackey
Author and Professor of Linguistics
at Georgetown University

“ Think of learning a language like learning to swim. Traditional language instruction is like practicing the strokes while standing on the shore, whereas immersion is like getting into the water and actually moving your limbs. The water is the language environment that we create for our students, where their learning is direct and intuitive.”

Angela Xu
Head of Avenues Shenzhen Primary Division