

Arabic Bilingual Program

Key Characteristics of the Arabic Bilingual Program

- Arabic is not the prevalent language of the child's home and community
- Arabic and English are the languages of instruction
- Alberta Education program of Studies is followed
- Instructional strategies and materials are designed for non- Arabic speaking students
- Includes a strong English program
- Authentic learning experienced through celebration of cultural activities, traditions and events

Entry Points

- Kindergarten and Grade 1.
- Previous Arabic language experience is not required
- Parents do not need to know the language

Arabic/English Content

- Ranging between 30 -50% Arabic content
- Specific subject areas will be dependent upon resources available

Teacher Skill-Set

- English and Arabic language competency
- Pedagogical understanding of 2nd language acquisition
- Knowledge and appreciation for Arabic culture
- Effective pedagogical practices

What are the Benefits of a Bilingual Education?

- On the surface, bilingual education is about learning a second language. Looking more closely, one will realize that second-language learning is about much more. Meaning-making goes beyond the spoken words. The voice they are said in and the body language accompanying them are even more important.
- Many cognitive benefits
- Greater flexibility in the use of strategies to solve problems and a greater number of cognitive strategies, students learn to pattern incoming information by trying to make connections between already established knowledge and the new information. It makes sense that bilingual children are much better in problem solving and pattern finding. They have learned two words for everything, whereas a monolingual child only had to learn one word for each item in their environment.
- Affective advantages in knowing more than one language include an increased appreciation, respect, and understanding of another culture. In a world of merging cultures, an open and inviting attitude towards other cultures is essential for a peaceful world.
- Increased employment opportunities.
- Increased post-secondary opportunities.
- Increased opportunities to work in various communities worldwide
- Increased volunteer and travel opportunities