

Ready for School and Immersion

Getting ready for school can usually cause anxiety for parents and children alike. Here are some tips to make sure you and your child are ready for the beginning of school.

1. Read to your child daily
2. Talk to your child- in the car, in the supermarket, while taking a walk. Talk about everything using the correct nouns for things instead of “take this over there” you say “take the basket and place it on the coffee table”
3. Listen to them
4. Give your child a variety of experiences- visit the zoo, the park, the library, play board games
5. Let your child have time for free play.
6. Give them time to color, trace, use scissors, finger paint, roll shapes out of play-doh
7. Start a bedtime routine several weeks before school starts- elementary age children should sleep between 10-12 hours each night. If they are used to going to bed late, you might want to start 30 minutes earlier each week until your child gets used to going to bed at a decent time. Then get them used to getting up early enough to get ready for school so you can arrive at school on time.
8. Provide them with healthy meals and healthy snacks (limit the sugar intake)- plus get them used to drinking lots of water- they need to stay hydrated to stay mentally and physically alert.
9. Limit their extracurricular activities. Immersion students will be hungry and tired when they get home from school. They will need time to recuperate until their brains get used to the concept of another language.
10. Show them the attitude you wish for them to have about school. Kids pick up on our attitudes- the more positive you are, the more positive they are. The calmer you are, the calmer they will be.

We are delighted to have you and your child become part of the ZIS family of Eagles. We are committed to building a foundation for your child to have a successful school career for years to come. Thanks for trusting the process of language immersion.

Zarrow International

Kinder Parent Orientation

MORNING ROUTINE

Breakfast

- It is very important that your child eats a good healthy breakfast each morning- school breakfast or home breakfast.
- Limit the sugary items you can get at the gas station or the donut shop. They get a sugar high with some alertness or hyperactivity involved, then they get a down that often leads to falling asleep during class or crankiness. If your child is struggling to get up in the morning, a sugary snack is not the smartest choice to get the child to cooperate. They will expect it each day, and their learning is the one that suffers in the end.

Attendance

- Having excellent attendance in a language immersion program is critical.
- Language is built on every day. A day your child misses is a day of academics and language acquisition they miss.
- We expect no more than 10 days of absences a year. Absences of 15 or more are at risk for their transfer to be revoked.
- School is more important than a trip to Disney World during school days; those are precious days of Spanish they will not get back.
- Students not only need to be here, but they need to be here on time. When they are late, it sets them up for “catch up” mentality which brings stress and the thought that school is not that important. They lose academic time when they are late.

EVENING ROUTINE

Reading to your child

- It is critical that you read to your child every day. Even as they get older.
- You do not have to read to them in Spanish.
- Our kinder teachers have asked parents NOT to try to teach your child to read in English, as this can complicate the immersion process.

Sleep Routine

- Students in the primary grades should get 10-12 hours of sleep. Their brains and bodies need to recover from all the learning they have done all day.

- This program is demanding on your child and those that do not get the proper rest often have behavior problems, are emotional during the day and struggle to keep up in the classroom.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER/PARENT AGREEMENT

- a. Commit to at least six years of enrollment at EIS or ZIS, *unless immersion committee makes a recommendation about a better placement for the student.*
- b. Actively engage in and document a minimum of four hours of volunteer participation in their child education per month (in or out of the classroom).
- c. Cooperate with teachers through completion of homework and reading logs.
- d. Support the school and help communicate the importance of the program to the children.
- e. Ensure that students attend school on a regular basis. Students should be brought to school on time (no earlier than 7:45 am unless they are in Before Care) and picked up on time (no later than 3:35 unless they are in After Care or after school clubs)
- f. Adhere to the district's attendance policy.*
- g. Cooperate and play a key role in the discipline of your child. To do this effectively, parents must communicate frequently with the child's teacher.
- h. Assist their child in developing literacy.
- i. Provide school uniforms and cultural activity uniforms.
- j. Provide transportation for their child in the event the district does not provide it for them.
- k. Support the school wide discipline plan and the school uniform policy.
- l. Provide a working email contact and participate in communications through the venue used by the school.

Volunteer Hours

- We ask parents to log AT LEAST ___ hours a month
- The more you give of yourself to the program, the more the program can offer to your child.

Communication

- Parents will be expected to provide valid contact phone numbers and a valid email address that is checked on a regular basis.
- Information will be sent to parents via homeroom parents, Yahoo Groups, School Connects (phone and email), and Parent Alert Texts (instructions included in this package for English and Spanish speakers).
- Parents are accountable for all the information that is sent out from the Zarrow community. If you commit to checking your email 3 times per week- you will meet these expectations.

