



Kindergarten Enrollment Process for the Dual Immersion Multicultural Education Program (DIME) at San Martin/Gwinn

Program Description:

In our Dual Immersion Multicultural Education Program (DIME), students from two different language groups work together to learn academics and become biliterate in Spanish and English. The acquisition of both languages occurs as students interact with each other in a linguistically balanced class. The goal of the program is to prepare bicultural and biliterate students by the end of their high school career. This program provides an exceptional preparation for the demands of the 21st Century with strong global citizenship, leadership skills, problem solving, and cultural diversity.

The DIME program has an instructional approach that integrates native English speakers and native Spanish speakers. The language model will start with the majority of instruction in one language and will decrease as students move through their schooling to reach 50% of instruction in each language.

During the kindergarten level of the MHUSD DIME program, native Spanish speakers serve as language role models for their counterparts, as 90% of the instructional time is in Spanish and 10% is in English. The MHUSD DIME instructional model for each of the grade levels is as follows:

- Kindergarten: 90% Spanish and 10% English
- First grade: 80% Spanish and 20% English
- Second grade: 70% Spanish and 30% English
- Third grade: 60% Spanish and 40% English,
- Fourth, fifth and sixth grades: 50% Spanish and 50% English

Application Requirements:

In order to enroll in our DIME program, parents need to complete the following three steps:

1. Attend one of the following DIME mandatory orientations
 - Jan. 14th at 6:00 p.m. at SMG
 - Jan. 28th at 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at SMG WCR (Spanish)
 - Jan. 28th at 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at SMG in Library (English)
 - Feb. 11th at 6:00 p.m. at P.A. Walsh
 - Other dates will be added at other school sites.
2. Sign a DIME Program Commitment Letter
 - Commitment letters will be given out at the mandatory orientation meeting.
3. Turn in a completed enrollment packet to your child's school of residence by **March 6, 2015**.
 - Kindergarten enrollment packets will be available beginning **February 2, 2015** online at the MHUSD website (www.mhusd.org) and at all the MHUSD elementary schools.
 - Parents/guardians may begin submitting their completed enrollment packets to their resident elementary school on or after **February 23, 2015**.

- The school of residence will forward this enrollment packet to San Martin/Gwinn if the student is accepted into the DIME program. Turning in the completed enrollment packet to the child's school of residence holds a place for the student at the school of residence should the student not get accepted into the San Martin/Gwinn DIME program.

Enrollment Priorities:

Dual Language Immersion programs are more successful when there is a linguistic balance of native speakers from both languages within the classroom. Therefore, MHUSD will prioritize DIME class enrollments to ensure linguistic balance. Students are admitted to the kindergarten DIME program in the following order:

1. Siblings
 - a. If the family has one or more siblings currently enrolled in the DIME program, the family will have first priority.
2. MHUSD families enrolling their first child into the DIME program
 - a. Families who reside within Morgan Hill USD will have second priority for DIME enrollment.
 - b. Parents who have a different school of residence outside of SMG area do not need to submit a Transfer Request Form to the school as part of the enrollment process.
3. Inter-district transfer
 - a. Families who reside within neighboring school districts will have third priority for DIME enrollment.

Note: If there are more students who apply in any given category above, a lottery system will be used to determine which students get enrolled into the San Martin/Gwinn DIME program. A lottery is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2015.

Parent Notification:

Parents will be notified by US Mail by **March 30, 2015** if their student has officially been accepted and enrolled into the San Martin/Gwinn DIME program. Students who do not get into the DIME program by this time will be wait-listed by the same priorities stated above. This wait-list will remain open throughout the 2015-16 school year. Note that Morgan Hill Unified School District students who do not get into the DIME program will be referred to their home school of residence. See #3 in the **Applications Requirement** section above.

DIME Application Process for Students in Grades 1-4:

The information described in this document is for the kindergarten DIME application process. Families wishing to enroll their student in the San Martin/Gwinn DIME program for grades 1-4 should contact the San Martin/Gwinn school principal. Students will be assessed to determine if they possess the appropriate language skills and academic skills in each language to participate in the program. Availability of space will also be considered. Note that students joining the DIME program after kindergarten will follow a similar application process with similar priorities for acceptance.