

Dear Parents,

In an effort to continually seek God's best for our students, our elementary admin team has spent the last year and a half researching the feasibility and need for a language immersion program at CCA. We visited several schools that have been successfully running immersion programs, and we are excited by what we have learned.

CCA's mission has always been to make disciples spiritually, academically and socially. Teaching our students to communicate in a second language across cultures has a significant impact on their ability to go out into the world and share the gospel. It will also equip our students to become young men and women who are more linguistically and culturally wise, while fostering a deeper understanding of the world. This exposure and fluency will allow our students to cross cultural boundaries to more effectively carry out our mission of making disciples in a global community.

Academically, we recognize that equipping the next generation for success means thinking deeply about education that promotes high academic achievement in English as well as an additional language. In the United States, 1 in 7 people are Hispanic. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world and is considered a "gateway" language that will train the brain, thus making it easier to learn other languages. Our research into language immersion has confirmed that learning more than one language gives children cognitive advantages and increases cultural awareness and sensitivity.

Based on all that we have learned during our research and the feedback that we have received from other immersion schools, **we are excited to share that CCA will be implementing a Spanish immersion program in Pre-K and elementary school in the 2017-18 school year.** This program will provide a proven method of educating children by immersing them in a second or 'target' language so they become truly bilingual. The model we have chosen to implement creates a classroom environment that becomes the setting for language acquisition through subject content instruction and social interaction.

CCA is partnering with **add.a.lingua**, an organization dedicated to developing instructional materials, teacher and administrator training, program guidelines, and

community engagement specific to dual language immersion education. Participation in the Spanish Immersion program will be open to students in **Pre-K4 and Kindergarten** in the 2017-2018 school year. An additional grade level will be added to the program in each consecutive year to allow all participants to advance within the program. Students will receive 100% of their academic instruction in Spanish. Specials classes such as STEM, art, music, PE, computers and drama will continue to be taught in English.

Calvary Christian Academy believes that students deserve the opportunity to benefit from quality dual immersion opportunities that ensure high proficiency in more than one language at no cost to English language performance. The Spanish immersion program will prepare our students to be equipped to use their gifts and talents to serve a global community.

We hope you will join our Pre-K and elementary team and a representative from **add.a.lingua** for an informational meeting on **January 26th from 8:15–9:15am or 7–8pm** to learn about this exciting new Spanish immersion opportunity. I also invite you to explore language immersion more at addalingua.com.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Rachels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Dr. Jason Rachels

Head of School

Calvary Christian Academy