



PRESS RELEASE

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Adobe Bluffs Elementary School Introduces First Dual Language Mandarin Immersion Program for PUSD for 2018-19 School Year

Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, located in Rancho Penasquitos, is excited to announce its new Dual Language Mandarin Chinese Immersion program, which is set to debut in the Fall of 2018.

The program will start with a class of kindergarteners and expand each year so that in six years, there will be an immersion class for every grade level, K-5th.

"We are very excited to start the Mandarin Immersion Program," said Eddie Park, principal at Adobe Bluffs. "We are teaching students to be linguistically competitive, culturally responsive, and globally diverse." This will be PUSD's second foreign language immersion program – with Valley Elementary School in Poway currently offering Spanish to K-5 students.

Adobe Bluffs has scheduled community information meetings for January 18, 2018. Parents can attend either the 8:00 am meeting or the 6:00 pm meeting. The information meetings will answer questions, explain the admissions process, and outline the 50/50 program model. The immersion class will spend half of the day learning subjects in Mandarin, and the other half in English.

The school's current Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) program will continue alongside this new program. "While the Mandarin Immersion Program will be rolled out for incoming kindergarteners," added Park, "the FLES model will continue to provide all of our students, K-5, with language and cultural learning opportunities."

The long-term goal of the program is to teach grade-level content standards through both languages so that by the time students are in upper grades, they will be proficient academically in both languages. "This program aligns with the District's vision to increase foreign language pathways for our students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Fluency in a foreign language is a huge advantage in the global marketplace, and we are providing that," said Superintendent Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps.

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