

Enrollment

If you are interested in having your child attend the Ohlone Mandarin Chinese/English Dual Immersion program, please do the following:

- Call Ohlone to sign up to visit the school and observe instruction any Tuesday or Thursday.
- Attend an orientation session (see attached for dates) at Ohlone School.
- Read the Ohlone Code and sign it to indicate your understanding of and agreement with the Ohlone philosophy of developmental education.
- Register your child (for grade levels see attached) at the PAUSD Central Attendance Office at 25 Churchill Avenue in Palo Alto (650-329-3707).
- Enter your child's name into the Ohlone Mandarin Immersion lottery (see attached for date).

NOTE: Ohlone is a district "choice" school for which admission is by lottery. The Ohlone School lottery is separate from the Ohlone Mandarin Immersion lottery. Entry in one lottery does NOT provide entrance to the other.

- For the Mandarin Chinese/English Dual Immersion program, there will be separate lotteries for English and Mandarin-speaking students to ensure role models with dominance in each language.
- If your child is entered into the Mandarin Immersion lottery, a simple assessment for oral language proficiency will be done prior to the lottery.

Ohlone Elementary School
950 Amarillo Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94303
(650) 856-1726

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and Program Background

PAUSD is located in the heart of Silicon Valley in the mid-peninsula of the San Francisco Bay Area. The District has over 11,000 students in 12 elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools. The Mandarin Chinese/English Dual Immersion program at Ohlone is one of four K-5 school choice programs, including a Spanish/English Dual Immersion program at Escondido School that has been in operation since 1996.

In June 2007, PAUSD was awarded a Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant to assist with Mandarin Immersion program development and implementation.

Program Outcomes

The Mandarin Chinese/English Dual Immersion program is designed to ensure that by fifth grade students:

- Develop high levels of proficiency in both languages
- Perform at or above grade level in both languages
- Demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors including the ability to be a life-long learner and positive participant in a global society
- Understand and share in Ohlone core values



PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
25 CHURCHILL AVENUE
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94306

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Ohlone Elementary
School

*Mandarin Chinese /English
Dual Immersion
Program*

Ohlone School Philosophy and Core Values

Ohlone's goal is to help each child acquire the **tools** of learning—reading, language, mathematics—in a way that the child experiences a **joy** of learning.

Ohlone School, operating as a “choice” school in the Palo Alto Unified School District since 1976, offers an “open education” approach characterized by:

- Teachers functioning as guides, facilitators, and coaches
- Multi-age groups
- Pupils progressing at their own rate
- Subjects integrated through the daily schedule
- A creative, challenging, and informal atmosphere

Ohlone core values state that:

- Curriculum and instruction need to be meaningful and relevant to each student so that he or she becomes a thinking, probing learner who searches for understanding
- Social and emotional development is as important as academic development and social skills enhance learning
- Assessment of student achievement is an on-going process of observation, reflection, and change

Parent Involvement

Parents are full-time partners in Ohlone School through participation in School Site Council, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and volunteering in the classroom. Parents of the Mandarin Immersion program will join in the school-wide model of parent involvement.

Program Model

In the Ohlone Mandarin Chinese/English Dual Immersion program, students will receive instruction in core curriculum based on the Palo Alto Unified School District content standards in both Mandarin and English, in multi-grade classrooms. They will receive that instruction in Mandarin and English according to the following approximate balance:

- K/1 Mandarin 80%, English 20%
- 2/3 Mandarin 60%, English 40%
- 4/5 Mandarin 50%, English 50%

A lottery will be conducted to ensure that 35-50% of the students are Mandarin speakers, to provide student models of fluency. Teachers will use developmental teaching strategies in an informal, creative atmosphere that promotes the Ohlone core values:

- Hands-on projects
- Opportunities to cooperate
- Independent and group work
- Teaching that enhances social, intellectual, and physical growth

Mandarin and English K-5 Curriculum

The Mandarin curriculum will use simplified characters and Pinyin to include:

- Explicit language instruction to read and write Chinese characters
- Correct form and stroke order for writing in Chinese
- Content-based instruction
- Real-life opportunities to use Mandarin

Curriculum will be selected from model immersion programs across the United States and will be developed to meet PAUSD and California content standards.



Why Dual Immersion?

Dual immersion is a unique educational experience with the goal of developing bi-literacy and bi-culturalism in elementary students; students attain the ability to listen, read, speak, write, and appreciate cultures in two languages.

Dual immersion is an approach to learning a second language where all the activities and curriculum are delivered in two languages, such as Mandarin and English. Students hear and use two languages to learn all of their school subjects.

Immersion is the most effective type of foreign language instruction currently available in schools in the United States. Immersion enhances academic, cognitive, and communications skills. It also promotes intercultural understanding and global awareness.

Immersion programs are particularly effective for young children because learning language is a natural process for them. Their brains are developing and more open to hearing and imitating sound while vocal physiology is still developing.

Benefits of learning a language at an early age

- Enhances a child's mental development and intellectual growth
- Develops more flexibility in thinking and a better ear for listening
- Improves understanding of native language
- Develops positive cultural identity and understanding of other cultures
- Develops a lifelong ability to approach problem-solving from a variety of perspectives