



Make Bilingualism Your Child's Superpower at Dillard Drive and Smith: WCPSS Magnet Elementary Schools

“

Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary School is home to our family. From the moment we walked through the door, we knew this place was special.

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– LaWanda Simpkins, PTA President
Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary

Is your child looking for a superpower? How about learning a new language?

Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary and Smith Magnet Elementary are two schools in the Wake County Public School System that offer students the superpower of becoming bilingual. While learning a new language can be challenging, it's far easier to start this learning while students are young. And the benefits last a lifetime!

There are so many academic benefits for students learning in a language immersion program. Dual Language Immersion (DLI) classes deepen the conversation in two languages in literacy, science, math, and social studies. Students are immersed in the partner language for initial content exposure, vocabulary development, and

literacy learning. Because of this solid foundation, students develop strong English skills as their instruction increases in both languages.

Dillard Drive Center for Global Studies and Spanish Immersion Magnet Elementary serves students in the Western portion of Wake County. Incoming kindergarteners have the option to learn in Spanish for the majority of the day in the Immersion Program. Or they can opt to study French or Spanish as a specials class that meets every week for 90 minutes. What an opportunity! Whichever option you choose, all students at our school are global learners and develop excellent communication skills in a world language; giving them an academic advantage. Dillard Drive parent and PTA President LaWanda Simpkins says, “Dillard



Drive Magnet Elementary School is home to our family. From the moment we walked through the door, we knew this place was special. As an elementary school, I believe it represents the core values of our world and has all the elements that will make the children come through it as global citizens. Every single person who works at Dillard shows up and serves with their full heart. I've never seen an educational community so dedicated to the full well-being of their students and families. Dr. Sykes and her staff are exceptional!"

But what if you live in the southern area of Wake County? No problem! **Smith Magnet International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and Spanish Immersion** also offers wonderful language opportunities. At Smith, students have the option to enroll in a Dual Language Spanish Immersion program at the kindergarten level. English and Spanish-speaking students gain proficiency in both languages by conversing and learning academic and social language throughout the day.

Students who do not join the immersion program can also choose a daily world language elective in either Spanish or Mandarin. Language opportunities abound!

Stephanie Nelson, a Smith Magnet Elementary School parent, says, "In addition to helping my first grader with multi language acquisition at a young age that she would not otherwise be formally receiving, the dual immersion program at Smith Magnet Elementary has introduced my daughter to cultures other than her own. She is developing multicultural competence and is eager to learn about and celebrate differences."

Want to see these immersion programs in action? Sign up for a tour at Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary or at Smith Magnet Elementary by visiting their websites listed below.

Accepting applications now through January 23 at wcpss.net/apply. For more information about Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary and Smith Magnet Elementary, visit their school websites at wcpss.net/dillarddrivees and wcpss.net/smithes.



SMITH MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DILLARD DRIVE MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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Join us for the **Magnet & Early College Fair on Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to noon** at **Enloe Magnet High School** (128 Clarendon Crescent, Raleigh 27610), where you can talk with staff from any magnet and early college school in Wake County.