



HUDSONWAY IMMERSION SCHOOL

Formerly **BILINGUAL BUDS**



Navigate the World®

引领世界

Navegando el Mundo

Mandarin Chinese • Spanish • English

New York City | Summit, New Jersey

Our History



Almost ten years ago as a mother of infant twins I was interested in having my children in an environment that would best support their bilingual development. Believing there would be others with this interest, I began the first independent Mandarin immersion school in the New Jersey and New York area under the name Bilingual Buds. Since then we have expanded to become an independent preschool through 5th grade Mandarin and Spanish immersion school with campuses in NJ and NY. Our new name, HudsonWay Immersion School (HWIS) evokes the spirit of Henry Hudson, a 17th century explorer who faced challenges in his quest to explore new worlds. This is our dream for our students – that they develop the skills and confidence to become self-directed learners capable of “navigating the world” in a time of rapid global change.

We invite you to learn what an immersion education can do for your child and consider joining the growing community at HudsonWay Immersion School.

Warmly,
Sharon Huang, Founder



“Our Mission is to develop flexible thinkers who are intellectually curious, culturally aware, and academically bi-literate.”

- Sharon Huang, Founder

Why Immersion?



Language immersion students have:

▪ *Higher test scores*

Students with foreign language experience score higher on the SAT.

▪ *Superior cognitive skills*

Bilingual students have better problem solving, creativity, and abstract thinking skills vs. monolingual students.

▪ *Better job prospects*

Bilingual college graduates earn more than monolinguals. Worldwide, more people speak Mandarin and Spanish than English.

▪ *Advanced speaking, reading and writing skills in Mandarin or Spanish*

Language and cultural knowledge enables students to be global citizens.

Language immersion programs have existed for nearly half a century with research showing that benefits of academic achievement, language and literacy development in two or more languages, and cognitive skills are achieved at no impact to their ability to perform academically on standardized tests administered in English. In fact, it has been shown that bilingual students outperform monolingual students. Immersion models that are 90:10 develop higher levels of proficiency than partial or 50:50 programs. For more research, visit www.hwis.org.

Student performance results from Canada, where language immersion has been a staple for over 40 years are impressive. On the 2009 Program International Student Assessment (PISA) exam, Canadian students enrolled in a French immersion program scored about 50 points higher on the reading examination than their non-immersion peers.

To put those numbers in perspective, Canadian French immersion students' scores are higher than the average score for China, the top performing country in the survey. The Canadian French immersion students scored an average of 573 on their reading exam, while non-immersion students averaged 523 point, and China's average was 554.

Our Leadership



“As educational leaders we see the benefits of immersion as **much more than language.”**

- Elizabeth Willaum, Director

Our administrators are leaders in language immersion education. Leading our team is director Elizabeth Willaum who has worked in immersion education for more than 40 years assisting in the development and enhancement of numerous language immersion programs throughout New York and New Jersey. Master teachers support our faculty in coaching, modeling and training of teachers.



*Elizabeth Willaum,
Director*



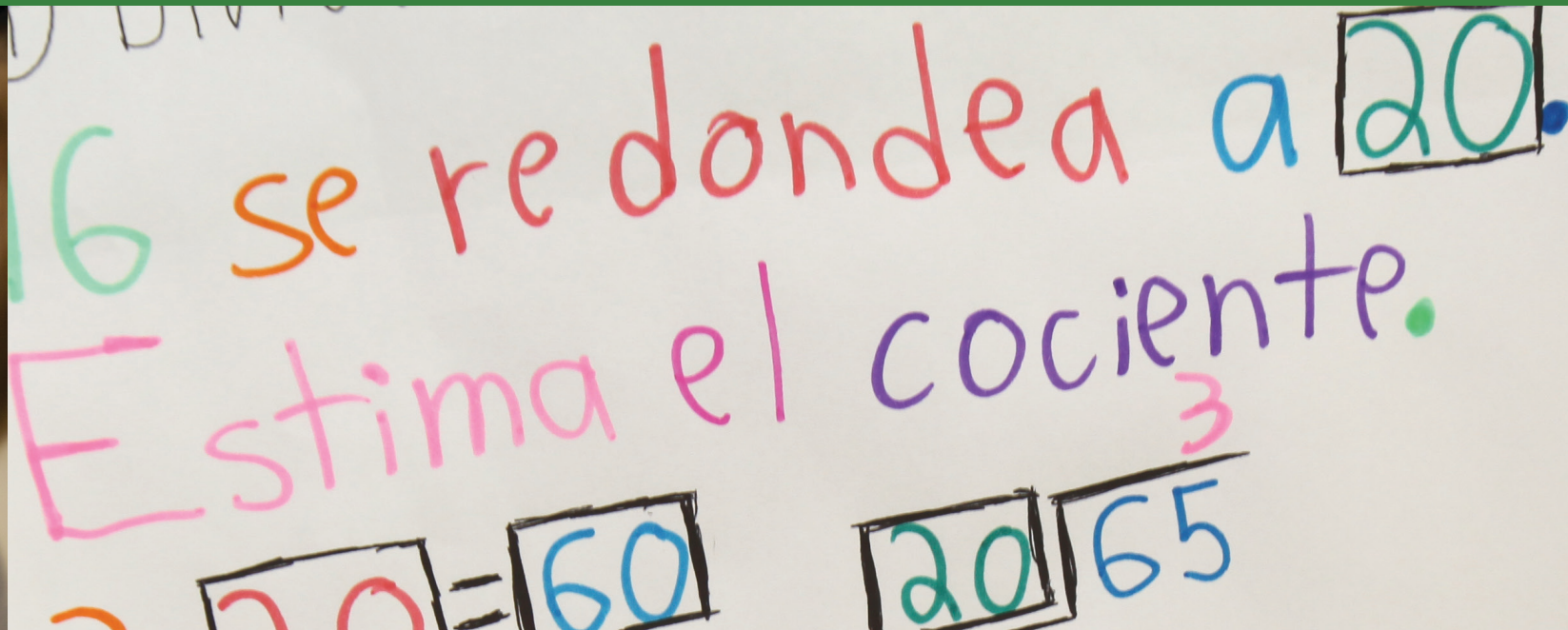
*Irene Gallardo-Nicolosi,
Master Teacher in Charge*

“In today’s world, opportunities in higher education and the global marketplace increasingly require multilingual skills. Yet the U.S. educational system lags far behind -- 21 of the top 25 industrialized countries begin the study of world languages in grades K-5, while the majority of U.S. students begin studying a second language at age 14.”

- U.S. Committee on Economic Development



Our Curriculum

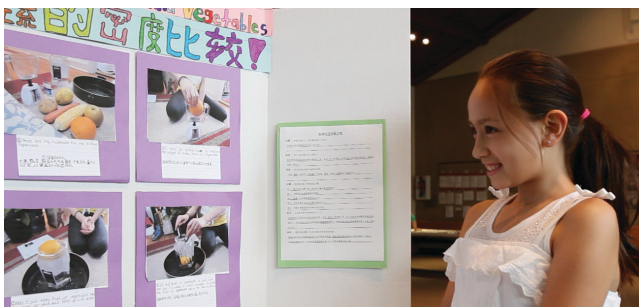


HWIS uses its own proprietary curriculum, specifically designed for early childhood to 5th grade immersion. The curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey and New York Core Curriculum Standards, but our approach to implementing the curriculum at the classroom level is unique, reflecting our school's mission.

Our model maximizes exposure to the target language in the early preschool years at 100-90% of instructional time, gradually increasing English to represent 60% in 4th and 5th grade.

In this way, we enable students to increase the likelihood of developing language proficiency which then deepens their ability to master academic content in the target language. Classes conducted in English are taught by a native English speaker. The alignment of target language and English instruction allows for synergistic learning.

Our small, multi-age classrooms offer students individualized instruction and differentiated instruction within a diverse learning community.



▪ *Language Arts*

In Mandarin or Spanish language arts students develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through content-based instruction.

▪ *Mathematics*

We use Math in Focus, commonly referred to as Singapore Math where students are provided with the necessary learning experiences beginning with the concrete and pictorial, followed by the abstract.

▪ *Science*

Students will learn the role and concepts of life science, physical science, and earth science through different hands-on experiments, activities, and scientific vocabulary in each lesson.

▪ *Social Studies*

HWIS students develop the skills to become engaged public citizens through their understanding of diverse cultures and perspectives.

▪ *Specials*

Physical education, music and art are taught through the rich cultural experiences of our teachers, and artists in residence in both the target language and in English.

Preschool



A nurturing start to the bilingual journey

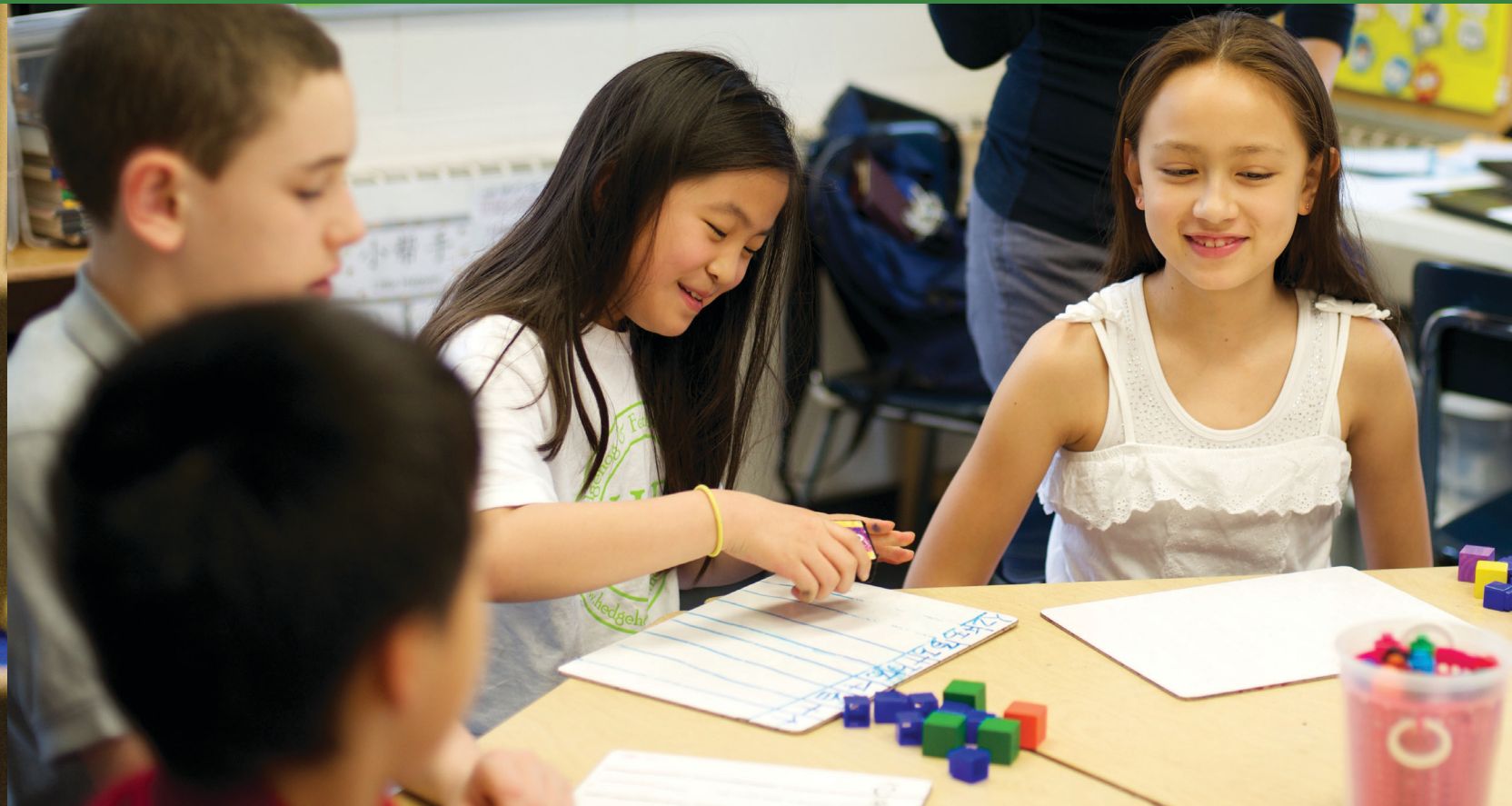


Because we start early at a time when children's brains are uniquely able to acquire a second language, children develop a good foundation for academic learning in the two languages. Our caring staff are native speakers in their language of instruction. They provide our students with an early understanding of different cultures and ways of thinking.

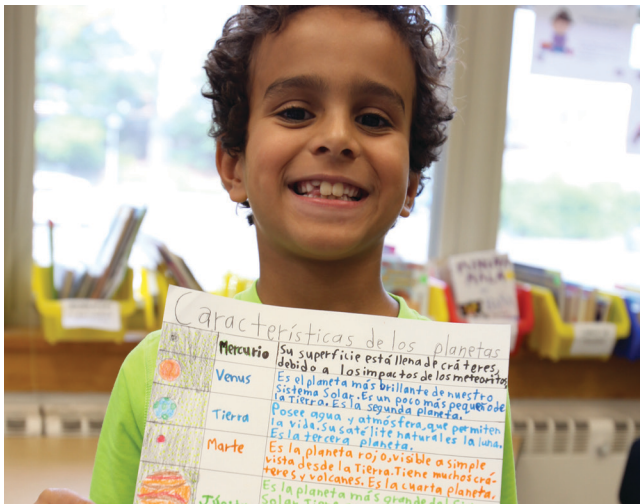
In our preschool program we develop the important social and emotional skills necessary for strengthening and solidifying children's early learning experiences. Children learn how to explore new ideas, take risks, use context clues, work independently, cooperate with classmates, follow instructions, and maintain self-control. Children are exposed to a literacy rich environment in both the second language and English.



Kindergarten - Grade 5



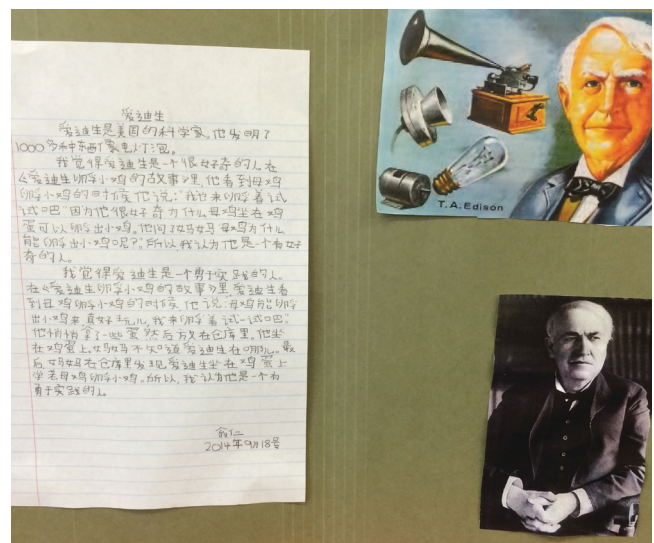
Our grades K-5 elementary immersion program deepens the “cognitive stretch” that leads to enhanced skills development



From the strong oral foundation in preschool, our kindergarten students are well prepared to deepen academic learning of content areas in language arts, math, science and social studies with the majority of the day spent learning in the target language.

Students are actively engaged in project based learning which promotes collaboration, research, writing and critical thinking skills.

We conduct core academic performance-based assessments for all grade levels throughout the year. In this way we can support each student with additional small group intensive learning after school if needed.





HUDSONWAY IMMERSION SCHOOL

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Learn More at
www.hwis.org

"What we like best about the school is its results ... we tried other schools, some of which claimed to be "immersion," as well as tutors and software, but none were effective. The key advantage ... is it is truly an immersion program, with abundant exposure to native language speakers. My wife and I do not speak a word of Mandarin, but our son now speaks it fluently."

- William F, Parent

"My daughter loves it... the teachers and staff are so caring and dedicated. My favorite moments are when, out of nowhere, my 4-year old is talking to a native Spanish speaker and I get to see the look of amazement on their face. No doubt, this is one of the best gifts we can be giving our children".

- Theresa S, Parent

The commitment and enthusiasm of the teachers is beyond anything we have seen. Our kids love going to school and we feel their progress is a direct result of the efforts and attitude of the teaching staff.

- Andrew P, Parent