



¡Bienvenidos!

HOLA

Hoboken Dual Language Charter School

Welcome to HoLa!

The Hoboken Dual Language Charter School (HoLa) is an exciting new dual language charter school that opened its doors to students in grades K-2 in September 2010, and has reached full fruition with grades K-8 as of the 2016-2017 school year. Today, HoLa is ranked among the best schools in the state and across the nation, based on standardized testing scores and other metrics.

HoLa offers a rigorous core curriculum through instruction in both Spanish and English to a diverse student population. Our students come from across the spectrum of Hoboken families, and beyond, to form a student body that is culturally, ethnically, linguistically, and socioeconomically diverse. HoLa has been designated a Model Program by the New Jersey Department of Education and serves as a resource to other programs of its kind from across the state. All families are welcome; no previous exposure to a second language needed! Charter schools are free public schools funded by the State and operated independently of local school districts.

Our Mission

The Hoboken Dual Language Charter School is committed to providing an exceptional education in Spanish and English to develop engaged, well-rounded bilingual citizens with a global and multi-cultural perspective, who take personal responsibility for becoming positive members of their communities.

Our Vision

The Hoboken Dual Language Charter School will be nationally recognized for providing an excellent academic and immersion education in Spanish and English. Our dedication to creating a positive school culture will result in students with strong social and emotional skills, effective parent-teacher partnerships, and high morale among staff. Our enriched learning environment and well-rounded curriculum will enable students to realize their creativity and talents across arts and sciences, and our comprehensive system of supports will promote equity and allow all students to reach their potential. We will have a sustainable source of funding to achieve our vision.

Student Body:

2 classes per grade
Average class size –
22 students

Facilities:

Elementary (Grades K-4)
123 Jefferson St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Middle School (Grades 5-8)
301 Garden Street, 4th Floor
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Hours:

Elementary School:
7:50am to 2:50pm

Middle School:
8:00am to 3:00pm

Enrichment:
Dismissal at 4:00pm

HoLa Aftercare:
Dismissal until 6:00pm

Scholarship

- We hold ourselves to high academic expectations.
- We work hard, actively participate, and show pride in the work we produce.
- We embrace challenges, take academic risks, and persevere.
- We cultivate intellectual curiosity.

Integrity

- We treat others with respect at all times.
- We follow the rules and do the right thing, even when it is hard and when no one is watching.
- We lead by example.
- We take personal responsibility for our actions.

Immersion

Research consistently demonstrates that students in dual language classrooms thrive academically, excelling in measures of cognitive development, problem solving, and flexible thinking, and outperforming their monolingual peers on standardized achievement tests. HoLa utilizes the well-established 90-10 immersion approach to dual language education, and incorporates a range of opportunities for creative expression and experiential learning.

Teachers in immersion classrooms utilize a variety of innovative strategies to facilitate comprehension and communication, integrate linguistic and academic content within a single lesson, and differentiate instruction.

Did you Know?

The 90-10 approach to dual language instruction has demonstrated the highest levels of academic achievement and linguistic development for both native Spanish-speakers and English-speakers alike. 90-10 refers to the proportion of time teachers utilize Spanish vs. English as the language of instruction in early grades (90% Spanish / 10% English). HoLa utilizes a graduated 90-10 approach, whereby the majority of instruction (90%) takes place in Spanish for grades K-2, with the ratio tapering to 50% English and 50% Spanish by grade 4.

How do students in immersion programs compare academically with those in English-only classes? Both English- and Spanish-speakers perform at comparable or superior levels on standardized assessments compared to same-language peers in other educational settings. (Lindholm-Leary, 2005; Lindholm-Leary & Borsato, in press).

As a charter school, HoLa students are required to take the same mandatory standardized achievement tests as students in other districts across the state, along with program-specific measures of academic achievement and linguistic development. Our students have continuously outperformed state averages in every subject, in every grade, every year.

Does the curriculum sacrifice academic instruction in other subjects in order to provide more time for language instruction? No. The HoLa program is fundamentally academic, and fulfills the same New Jersey Student Learning Standards as all public schools in New Jersey. Bilingualism is a key goal that will result from specific teaching strategies in an immersion setting. The language component does not replace instructional time; rather, academic content is delivered primarily in Spanish in the early years so that language is a tool of instruction, not a subject in and of itself. Immersion classrooms are rich, dynamic learning environments where students are challenged and engaged on many levels: cognitively, academically, creatively and linguistically.

Kindness

- We accept, include, encourage and support one another.
- We assume the best of each other.
- We are polite and courteous in our words and actions.
- We demonstrate both generosity and gratitude.

Global Citizenship

- We show pride in being a community of bilingual learners.
- We use our native and acquired language skills to connect with others.
- We are preparing ourselves to be active participants in the emerging global community.
- We actively seek to make the world a more equitable place for people of all identities, backgrounds and beliefs, starting within our own school.

Innovation

- We exercise our imagination and learn the skills we need to be tomorrow's thought leaders.
- We collaborate by combining our collective strengths and talents.
- We demonstrate creativity through self-expression and problem-solving alike.
- We apply a variety of ideas, methods and approaches in order to build, solve and create.

CORE VALUES

HoLa's core values describe who we are as a school community, and reflect our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

These values represent foundational culture norms that allow us to work toward achieving our enduring common goals of academic excellence, bilingualism, and the cultivation of character strengths among our students.



HoLa students will:

Develop high levels of verbal and written proficiency in both Spanish and English

Achieve grade level (or above) academic performance and mastery of core content across all subject areas, in both Spanish and English

Take advantage of the optimal window for learning a second language

Benefit from an academic and competitive edge in continued education and the workplace

Reap the many cognitive, academic and social benefits of bilingualism and biliteracy

Develop positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors

Program Goals

Will learning Spanish interfere with the development of my child's English skills? No. Learning in an immersion setting does not interfere with or "delay" English language development. Students are also provided with one period daily of English Language Arts starting in K to support biliteracy and the transfer of literacy skills. Children enrolled in immersion programs score statistically higher on standardized tests conducted in English. A number of reports have shown that children who have learned a second language earn higher SAT scores, particularly on the verbal section of the test.

How do I know if HoLa is right for my child? Students from different language backgrounds, and with varying academic strengths and needs, have all benefited from dual language education. There is no particular type of student that can (or cannot) flourish in immersion programs.

Extracurricular Features

Aftercare is provided by members of our faculty and our aftercare staff. Aftercare begins at dismissal, and remains open until 6:00 pm. The Aftercare program provides students with quiet time for homework, reading, and small group play (board games, puzzles, card games, etc.) as well as opportunities for physical activity and arts and crafts. Please visit our website www.holahoboken.org, or contact the school for more information.

Enrichment programs at HoLa offer a wide range of course offerings, including science, the arts, sports, and other areas of interest. Courses meet weekly and are taught by our teachers or outside providers, for ten or eleven consecutive weeks. The Enrichment program is organized to correspond with the school's academic trimesters, and different courses are offered each trimester. The Enrichment program is independent of the Aftercare program and is available to all HoLa students. There is a fee for some of the Enrichment offerings. Financial assistance is also available. Please visit our website www.holahoboken.org to see our current class offerings.



Experts Say:

Participation in early foreign language correlates with positive results in areas of standardized testing (Armstrong & Rogers, 1997)

Children who have studied a foreign language show greater cognitive development (Hakuta, 1990)

Foreign language study has been shown to increase listening skills, memory, and a greater understanding of one's own language (Lapkin, et al., 1990)

Children studying foreign language have an improved self-concept and sense of achievement in school (Caine & Caine, 1997)

Children in dual language programs develop a sense of cultural pluralism, openness and appreciation of other cultures (Met, 1995)

Children have the ability to learn and excel in the pronunciation of a foreign language, thus achieving more native-like levels of proficiency (Krashen, et al., 1982)

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Admissions Process

As a public charter school, HoLa accepts new students on the basis of a random lottery each year. Applications are accepted for all grades (K-8) on a rolling basis, but must be submitted one week before the annual lottery in order to be included. Applications submitted after the lottery date will be added to the end of the wait list in the order they are received. After applying, you will receive a confirmation by mail with your assigned lottery number. Those who are offered spots for the upcoming school year will be notified immediately; all others will be placed on the waiting list and will be notified when/if new spots become available. HoLa also offers a low-income preference in our lottery. Students who qualify will receive two entries in our lottery.

For more specific information, as well as open house information, please visit our website, holahoboken.org, or contact us at admissions@holahoboken.org or (201) 427-1458.

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