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SPANISH AND CHINESE IMMERSION PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS TO LAUNCH IN IRVINE

IRVINE, California, October 10th, 2013 – LePort Schools announced this week that it will launch both a Spanish and a Mandarin Chinese immersion preschool program in Irvine for the 2014/15 school year.

“Our Spanish immersion preschool program in Huntington Beach has been a success! Parents just love it, and the students who joined a mere 12 months ago are now strong Spanish speakers. The five-year-olds are even reading in Spanish,” says Heike Larson, Vice President of Outreach. “We are excited to bring the same full immersion approach to Irvine, in both Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.”

Spanish immersion for infants, toddlers and preschool children will be available starting in September 2014, at LePort’s expanding [Irvine Spectrum campus](#). The Mandarin Chinese immersion program for toddlers and preschoolers is also expected to open in September 2014, and will be located at a [new campus in the Westpark area](#) of Irvine, just off Alton and Culver.

Both the Mandarin Chinese and Spanish immersion programs are integrated into a [Montessori preschool environment](#), which is ideally suited [to foster bilingualism](#). “Our goal is to enable children from English-speaking or mixed-language households to become capable speakers of Spanish or Chinese, and to equip them with literacy skills in both English and Spanish/Chinese during their preschool years”, explains Ray Girn, CEO of LePort Schools.

Families can enroll their children right away for the Spanish immersion program in Huntington Beach. The Irvine Mandarin Chinese and Spanish programs are now accepting waitlist placements for September 2014; enrollment offers will be sent out by early March. Children up to four years old by September 2014 may enroll in either program; older children may be accepted on a case-by-case basis, if they come into the program with sufficient Spanish or Mandarin Chinese skills.

For more information on the Chinese and Spanish preschool programs, visit <http://www.leportschools.com/spanish-chinese-preschool/>. Parents and media are also invited to our [October language immersion information evenings](#):

- Wednesday, October 23rd, 6:30 – 8 pm, at the Huntington Harbor campus, 16081 Waikiki Lane, Huntington Beach.
- Thursday, October 24th, 6:30 – 8 pm, at the Irvine Spectrum campus, One Technology Drive, Building A, Irvine.

LePort Schools has been educating Southern California children for thirteen years, and operates eight preschools and private schools in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties, serving children from infants through 8th grade. For more information about the company, visit www.LePortSchools.com/About. To inquire about media visits or interviews contact info@leportschools.com, or call (949) 427-3970.



A [Montessori preschool classroom is ideal](#) for language acquisition because it naturally provides many elements needed for a child to become bilingual, such as differentiated instruction, an ability to naturally use language, and eloquent language role models (i.e., teachers).



Immersion preschool programs are offered at three LePort campuses:

- [Huntington Beach: Spanish immersion](#) for toddlers, preschool and, new for fall 2014, elementary.
- [Irvine: Spanish immersion](#) for infants, toddlers and preschool. Opens September 2014 at the Irvine Spectrum campus.
- [Irvine: Mandarin Chinese immersion](#) for toddlers and preschool. Opens September 2014, at a new campus in the Westpark area, near Culver & Alton.



The [focus of the immersion preschool program](#) is to enable children who don't speak Spanish or Chinese at home (or who come from mixed-language households) to *learn Spanish or Chinese naturally and joyfully*. The program creates a Spanish or Chinese environment where children naturally transition to using Spanish or Chinese for communicating with teachers and with each other.