

DLI at MLKTA

Dual Language Immersion

Volume №1 | January, 2023



Celebrating Cultures

December 8, 2022

MLKTA students enrolled in the DLI program, along with English learner students, had the opportunity to attend the annual Calidanza Dance Company winter performance at the Crest Theater in Sacramento. Students were entertained by the Mexican folk and contemporary dances the artists performed. The company's mission is to promote artistic excellence and to make dance accessible to both audiences and participants. Students were amazed by the talented dancers' abilities and the fun expression of culture through their dances and costumes.

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PRINCIPAL



TwinRivers
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHO CAN ENROLL INTO THE DLI PROGRAM?

Students who have been enrolled in an elementary DLI program from Kindergarten to grade 6 are eligible to enroll. Additionally, Spanish-speaking students who are newcomers to the US education system (3 years or less) with mid to strong literacy skills in Spanish are welcome to join.

To learn if your child is a good candidate for DLI, contact MLKTA for more information.
916-566-3490

THE TEACHERS OF DLI



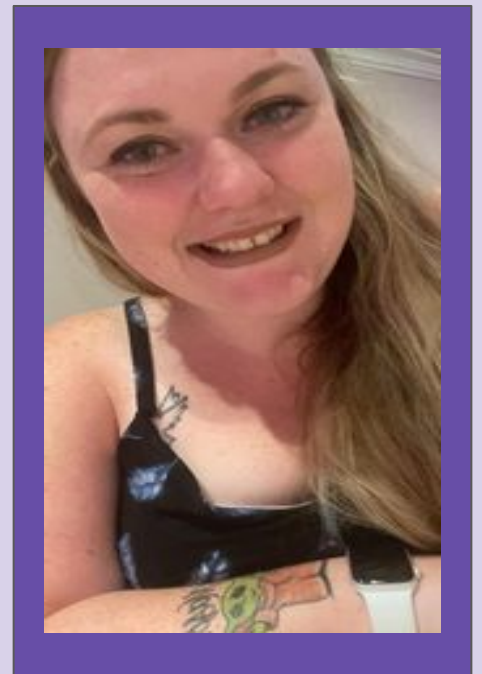
Jemina Jones, Spanish Language Arts

Mrs. Jones has been an educator for 24 years teaching a wide range of content across many age levels from elementary to college. She is currently at MLKTA teaching DLI Spanish and ELD for newcomers and multilingual learners working towards proficiency in English. When asked what she loves most about DLI, Mrs. Jones expressed, *"I love that my DLI students ALL speak and understand fluent Spanish! After eight years in the DLI program, they communicate with ease in BOTH English and Spanish. This allows for rich class discussions about real world issues,*

as well as provide ample opportunities to self-express in multiple modalities!" In her freetime, when she's not engrossed in a good book, Mrs. Jones enjoys caring for her small urban farmstead and her many pets. Ask her about her chickens! In her youth she enjoyed playing sports. Her hidden talents... sewing and singing. *Soy oriunda de Los Angeles donde mi papa (Mexicano) y mi mama (Salvadorena) se conocieron. Ambos fueron docentes en sus paises respectivos y nos enseñaron a leer y escribir en español antes de matricularnos en el kinder. Me interesa todo lo relacionado con la Linguística, específicamente la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de un segundo idioma.*

Sarah Gilliken, English Language Arts

Mrs. Gilliken is now in her 6th year as an educator in TRUSD where she has devoted her time at MLKTA. She knows a lot about the district having grown up here locally and graduating from Highlands High. This year she is teaching the DLI English 7 course, along with ELA 7 Honors and ELA 8. When Mrs. Gilliken is not at work, she devotes her time to her family. She has a very active 2-year old son who keeps her busy as a mom. Mrs. Gilliken has really embraced working in the DLI program. *"I enjoy working with DLI students because they are motivated to learn and be successful. I also enjoy learning new things about Hispanic culture and having the opportunity to work with smaller groups of students. It gives me the chance to learn more about my students and build better relationships with them."* If you ever have any questions or concerns, Mrs. Gilliken is very accommodating. She wants what is best for her students and will help them in any way possible.



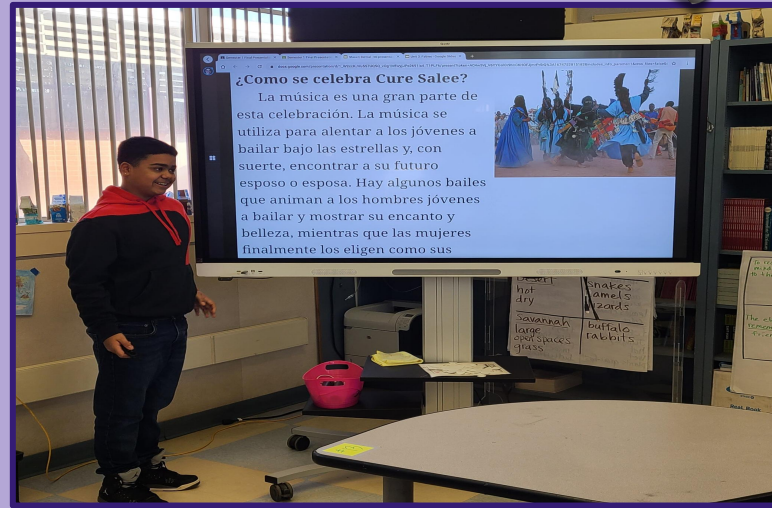
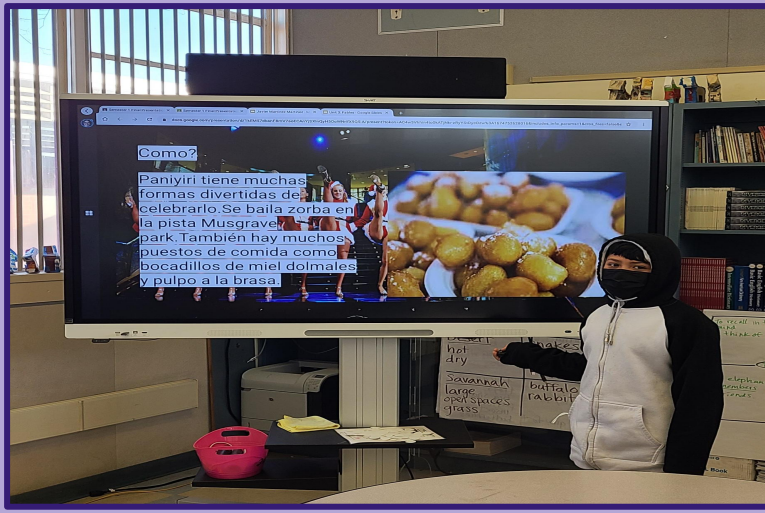
Ramon Castillo Juarez, History (Spanish)

Mr. Castillo Juarez, known as Mr.C. by his students, is in his first year of teaching. He teaches the DLI Gr. 7 history course in Spanish, along with world history and US history to other MLKTA students. *"I love teaching the DLI students because they are presented with a unique challenge and each of them is actively working to overcome that obstacle. Although each may do it at a different pace each nonetheless is making progress."* Outside of work Mr. C. likes to work on his car, go hiking, and build and create dioramas.



MLKTA DLI Academic Greatness

Class Project



Pictured above are two of MLKTA's DLI Spanish students completing their Semester Finals Projects with a Google Slide presentation about the Country/Holiday they researched in Sra. Jones class. This is just one of many learning activities that our DLI students engaged in over the course of the 1st Semester. To see our students progress and go through the maturation process of coming in as incoming 6th grade students to now being classified as rising 7th grade students has been a joy to witness and observe. They are definitely 8th grade leaders in the making.



Pictured to the left is the finished product of MLKTA DLI students working collaboratively to construct a raft out of popsicle sticks and string in Mr. Castillo's World History class. This lesson was intended to enhance students' understanding of indigenous people's efforts to explore Oceania. More evidence of culturally responsive learning and teaching but most importantly, the brilliance of our great DLI students here at MLKTA.



**WE ARE
MARTIN LUTHER KING**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MR. MARSHALL

Greetings MLKTA Families. I am extremely excited and honored to share our inaugural, monthly DLI Newsletter. This year is our first year in having DLI here at MLKTA and we are in the continuous process of building on the overarching DLI framework and purpose while also meshing this program with the overall unique culture of MLKTA. Currently, our 7th grade DLI students are thriving and continue to set a positive tone for our next cohort of DLI students. Our DLI instructional staff (Please see Profiles) continues to apply best instructional practices that are unique to our DLI students in giving them the best prospect to progress in their biliteracy and bilingualism.

Our DLI instructional staff continues to participate in ongoing collaboration with K-6 instructors from both Las Palmas and Madison Elementary Schools. There is also ongoing collaboration with district management. Principals are included in these convenings as well and as a result, there are great things on the horizon for our DLI program here at MLKTA. Recruiting efforts at aforementioned elementary schools will be occurring 1/27, 1/31 and 2/10. We are very excited about the direction our DLI program is headed in here at MLKTA. We also welcome our DLI parents to feel free to contact us at anytime for suggestions, feedback and input as that only demonstrates that we must work in partnership in giving MLKTA the best prospect in seeing our students thrive. We're Still the Lions!"

Mr. Marshall---Principal