



DLS 10
A Decade of Excellence

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF LANGUAGE IMMERSION EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

DENVER, COLORADO - OCTOBER 10, 2019 - Denver Language School (DLS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a nationwide leader in language immersion education.

Since 2010, the school has gone from a small K-2 with 225 enrolled students, to a K-8 with 874 students, and the #1 top choice school in the Denver Public School District.

Co-founders Kristy Fantz and Camilla Modesitt:

When we started working on the school back in 2007, we had no concept of where this idea would take us. We just knew that we believed in the power of language immersion education and the importance of making it available in the public space. Every year, DLS continues to grow as does the realization of our goal to implement the language immersion model with fidelity, integrity, and an unyielding commitment to the DLS family. We look forward to many more years of transforming public education and leading the language immersion conversation.

DLS would not have started without the financial support and guidance of the Stapleton Foundation (now the Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities). The Foundation played a major role in helping sharpen DLS's mission and vision, author its charter application, apply for start-up funds, and hire personnel. Brian Weber, who at the time was the Vice President of Educational Initiatives at the Foundation, went on to serve as DLS's first Principal.

Corelle Spettigue, Board Chair and Parent:

As both a parent and the Board Chair of DLS, I am so grateful to be a part of such a thriving community. It is simply incredible to think of just how far DLS has come over the past 10 years. From a small, community-grown charter, to one of the most sought-after and respected charter schools in DPS, DLS keeps shining bright. This is in large part because of our incredible teachers, devoted staff, wonderful students, dedicated parents, strong leadership, and the continued support from DPS and our neighborhood communities. I am so proud to be part of this very special school, and I look forward to what the next 10 years at DLS will bring!



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DLS's current student enrollment stands at 874 students in grades K-8. It ranks as a top ten middle school in the Denver Public School District. DLS is also the only middle school in DPS to offer an AP exam to its 8th grade students. In 2019, 80% of the DLS 8th grade class passed their Spanish and Mandarin AP exams with a score of 3 or higher.

Kathy Benzel, Executive Director of DLS:

The demand for the Denver Language School reflects the critical importance of high quality, public school language immersion education. DLS provides an authentic opportunity for our students to develop intercultural competence and academic excellence every day, and seeing them grow in their confidence, capability, and capacity is my honor. I am proud to be part of leading the effort in meaningful, impactful educational options for our children and the endless possibilities the future holds for them. I am grateful to our community and stakeholders -- students, staff, parents, community members, DLS Board members, and DPS leaders -- for a strong partnership in serving over 870 students at two campuses.

The school will be celebrating its decade of excellence with special events throughout the school year, including the annual DLS Gala, on November 16 at the Grand Hyatt Downtown Denver.

Denver Language School is a DPS K-8 charter school located in the Mayfair Park and Five Points neighborhoods of Denver, Colorado. The school offers a full immersion model in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese to over 870 students. Founded in 2010, DLS is a top ten DPS middle school in Math and English in state and local test results.

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