

K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala

Bilingual Kindergarten to Grade 5



CAMPBELL RIVER
School District 72

The early K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala bilingual program is a district program housed in Ripple Rock Elementary aimed to develop K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala bilingual speakers. The classroom teachers and language and culture teachers work together to create an environment where students can learn, play and grow in K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala. Enrollment is dependent upon space and staffing considerations.

WHAT IS EARLY K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala?

- Along with the primary classroom teachers there are certified language teachers to support language growth of the teachers and students.
- In the elementary years (K-5) K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala is the main language of instruction and English is used to support understanding within the lessons. Students are encouraged to interact in K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala for all school-related activities.
- The curriculum parallels the English language program. Children are expected to develop the same level of competence in academic, social and physical skills as their counterparts in the English program.
- The classroom experiences connect foundational skills, K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala, and supporting children in being proud of who they are and where they come from.
- A learning environment for children to be connected to their community through their language, stories, and relationships.

WHO IS THE K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala BILINGUAL PROGRAM FOR?

- Early K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala is a program of choice open to all children entering kindergarten or grades 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.
- The program is open to families wanting to increase language opportunities, strengthening the use of K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala at school, home and in communities.

Common Questions

Will my child receive the same quality of education in the early K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala bilingual program?

Yes. The programs follow the Ministry of Education curriculum.

Will my child adapt to a class where limited English is spoken?

Yes. Children adapt very easily. Those who are very confident begin using the language right away. Others need more of an initiation period. As their confidence builds, they begin to interact more in K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala.

Will my child keep up in their English language development?

Yes. Language mechanisms are taught in both English and K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala. Supporting the two languages can strengthen the first language and vice-versa.

How can I help my child at home?

At the early elementary level, parents and guardians can encourage their children by demonstrating an active interest in their language learning and where possible create connections with other K^waḱ^wala and Liḱ^wala language speakers. Parents should continue to read with their child in English. As children progress through the years, it is wonderful to celebrate their learning and take an active role in their day-to-day lessons.

For more information contact either the school principal at (250) 850.2035 or the Indigenous Education department at (250) 830.2332