What is Two-Way Immersion?
The students who participate in the two-way immersion program focus on literacy skills in both English and Korean while learning the grade-level content. The content instruction of math, science, and language arts will be taught in Korean for half of the instructional day and social studies and language arts are taught in English for the other half of the day.

The goals of the Two-Way Immersion program are:
1. To acquire first language literacy while learning literacy skills in the second language, thus strengthening both languages,
2. To develop students’ academic proficiency in Korean and in English while connecting skills learned across both languages,
3. To develop students’ cross-cultural understanding and to serve as language role models during their learning,
4. To develop multicultural awareness and a more global perspective.

Why Two-Way Immersion?
FCPS Two-Way Immersion (TWI) programs have proven results that show the academic achievement of students to perform at or above the level of their grade level peers on end-of-year English assessments. In addition, TWI students outperform the non-TWI peers in reaching reading benchmarks in the primary grades and 3rd grade SOL benchmarks. (FCPS, May 2008) Research findings suggest that “bilingual students have advantages on certain thinking dimensions, particularly divergent thinking, creativity, early meta-linguistic awareness, and communicative sensitivity.” (Baker, 2011)


What does our data show at Powell?
At Colin Powell Elementary School, the Korean Immersion Program began in September 2012 with 44 children enrolled. A review of assessments at the end of the year showed that 93% of our Kindergarten and 91% of our Immersion students met or exceeded language arts benchmarks. Of those Immersion students who passed the benchmarks, 52% passed in the advanced range, with 39% testing at the highest level we are allowed to assess for rising first grade students! Results of our mathematics assessments show that 89% of our Kindergarten and 100% of our Immersion students met or exceeded the benchmarks. In summary, the data shows that our immersion students are solidly prepared to begin the first grade curriculum this year.

At this time we have 40 children in our kindergarten Immersion classes and 43 children in our first grade Immersion classes.

What is the vision of the Korean Immersion Program?
Preparations are underway to have the Korean Immersion Program available to students at grades K-12 in the Centreville Pyramid. At middle and high school, students are currently able to access some Korean curriculum.

At Powell, we anticipate continuing the program with every grade level having an immersion program by the 2018-2019 school year. As students reach the third grade, we will pair the Two-Way Korean Immersion Program with the Advanced Academic Program so that students will be able to access both programs in our building. That model will continue through the sixth grade level in preparation for students to move to middle school.