

III. Abstract

¡Bienvenidos a Collinswood! Walking down the halls listening to the Latin rhythm of salsa playing over the intercom and looking at authentic student work samples written in two languages, you know that you have entered a dynamic learning environment that celebrates cultural diversity. Collinswood Language Academy was the first K-5 Dual Language Program in North Carolina and its students have achieved exceptional academic success over the past seventeen years of the program's existence. Not only are our students able to listen, speak, read and write in English and Spanish, but our state test scores are among the highest in our district. Due to the success of our students and teachers, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board of Education voted to expand our program (K-8) in 2009. At the completion of fifth and eighth grade, our students are rewarded for their hard work and language proficiency by receiving an prestigious academic certificate from the Spanish Ministry of Education in Spain. In the Spring of 2014, our eighth graders will travel throughout Spain on a cultural experience of a lifetime.