



ESCUELA

Amigos

SCHOOL

Welcome to the *Amigos* School

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Welcome to the Amigos School, a Two-Way (Spanish / English) immersion school that celebrates cultural and linguistic diversity as well as promotes high academic achievement for students in English and Spanish through all content areas. The focus at Amigos is on developing a balance between the Spanish and English languages, spoken and written, informal and academic. The Amigos School fosters equal status for both languages and strives to create a school atmosphere that is truly bilingual.

We use Spanish, along with English, in the public domain - in the school office, in the corridors, at school assemblies and at our meetings. The environment at the Amigos School supports a learning community that develops cross-cultural understanding. Teaching focuses on individual strengths and an emphasis on cooperative learning in a culturally and linguistically integrated setting. Amigos parents are actively involved in the school's organization and mission, sharing in the thinking that bilingualism is an amazing gift, opening doors to a child's development and success in the global society.

Deb Sercombe, Principal

- The Amigos School is committed to a strong tradition of excellence in a dual language education of English and Spanish.
- Our mission is to provide a child-centered environment rich in academics and interpersonal experiences.
- The Amigos School develops socially responsible and critical thinkers who are competent bilingual/bi-literate students.
- We strive to create citizens who make positive contributions to our local community and to the world.
- Our diversity is our greatest strength.



“Being Hispanic means being an individual with multiple cultures. It means...being bilingual...the more culture you have, the more knowledge you get.”
-Cristian Britos (kindergarten parent)

Our Mission Statement



"To be in Amigos is a way to share with our children the importance of learning about and valuing our cultural heritage for them."

-Susana Lara (kindergarten parent)

What Makes Amigos Special?

Amigos is a nationally recognized model for bilingual education. Since its inception over twenty years ago, Amigos has worked closely with Dr. Wallace Lambert of McGill University to ensure a close relationship between research and practice. In 2001, the Intercultural Developmental Research Association chose Amigos as one of 10 schools around the United States selected for their innovativeness and success and called Amigos an exemplary bilingual education program. The LAB Education Laboratory at Brown University has profiled Amigos as a program of excellence, and Amigos has also contributed to current knowledge on immersion education through its close collaboration with the Center for Applied Linguistics. Each year, Amigos receives visitors from all over the world, interested in learning more about the educational model and its benefits.

How does the school get its name?

Amigos School is named after the word 'Amigos', which means friends in Spanish and which underscores the importance of building long-standing friendships amongst and between native English and native Spanish-speaking students. The school's name was derived from a group of parents, teachers, and community advocates who not only wanted to create a bilingual school, but also were interested in the socio-cultural benefits of a dual language education.

School Motto

Everyone can learn in two languages.

School Colors

Turquoise, red and blue

School Facts

- 300 students
- 20 classroom teachers
- 9 classroom support specialists
- 13 specialists (music, gym, chinese & art teachers)

Building Highlights

- Bilingual Bookroom
- Science Lab
- Media Library
- Indoor Courtyard (City Sprouts)
- Playground

Community Partners

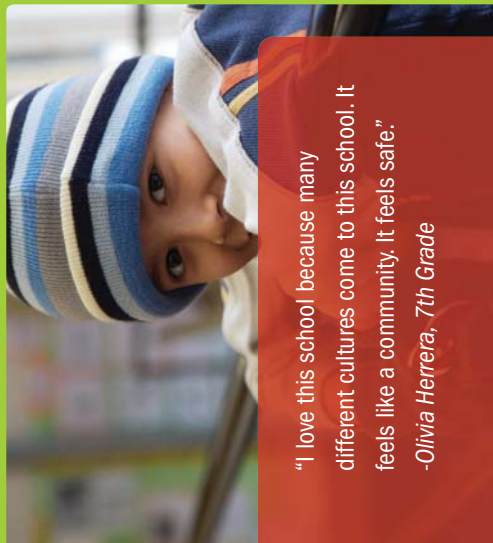
- **Lesley University:** Collaboration with trainers from Lesley University's Literacy Collaborative team to support coaching and teacher development in English/Spanish Language Arts.
- **Harvard University:** Reading Buddies, City Step, the Harvard Fogg Museum and Language and Literacy Internship Program for Reading Specialists.
- **City Sprouts:** Development of an outdoor garden to promote science, a hands-on connection to the food cycle, sustainable agriculture and the natural environment.
- **City Step:** Performing arts partnership between Harvard University and Amigos to introduce 5th to 6th graders to an in-school dance theatre curriculum as a medium for self-expression and creativity.
- **Missng Lnks:** Artist in Residence Sam Martinborough works with 6th and 7th grade students weekly to promote cultural and historical exploration through vocal music.
- **Sports4Kids:** Partnership that provides a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to engage children in positive play at recess and during an after-school program, coached by an enthusiastic and well-trained adult.
- **Fogg Museum:** Collaboration with Harvard's Fogg Museum and Amigos third grade classes to work with a docent from the museum to view works of art, explore painting and drawing and participate in a museum exhibition.



About the Amigos School/Partnerships



- **Hispanic Writer's Week:** Visiting writers and poets from Latin American spend a week with selected Amigos teachers and students.
- **Arboretum Trip:** Whole school community gathers at the Arnold Arboretum to do a fall Science Scavenger hunt, have lunch together and join in a sing-along in Spanish and English.
- **Project Adventure:** Amigos 4th/5th grade students spend a day on the challenge course building community, physical skills and cooperative play.
- **Heifer International Farm Trip:** 8th grade field trip Heifers' Overlook Farm learning center, providing education that promotes sustainable solutions to global hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.
- **Astronomy Night:** An evening of activities including student science presentations and collaborations featuring astronomers and scientists from the Cambridge community.
- **Farm School Trip:** 6th grade, two-day, hands-on experience in practical farm training and care of animals.



"I love this school because many different cultures come to this school. It feels like a community. It feels safe."

-Olivia Herrera, 7th Grade

- **Reading Buddies/Lectores y Amiguitos:** Partnership with Harvard Graduate School of Education to pair staff, students and faculty volunteers from across Harvard with second graders for weekly read-alouds in English and Spanish.
- **Science Club for Girls:** K – 8 Girls meet weekly to explore science ideas and concepts that promote science interest and careers for girls
- **Discovering Justice:** A literacy-based civic education program for 1st and 3rd grade students to help them develop the skills to become active engaged citizens, focusing on justice and equality.
- **Friends of Amigos (FOA):** a non-profit parent organization created to raise funds for educational field trips and classroom resources
- **Chinese (Mandarin) enrichment:** Weekly Chinese oral and written language development for students in grades JK – 8.
- **Irish Breakfast:** Amigos school community celebrates Irish culture, music and food



“The first time we heard about the Amigos School after moving to Massachusetts, we knew it was the perfect school for our family.”
 -Catalina Rojas & William Cooper
 (Parents of: Gabriela Cooper, 1st Grade Elena Cooper, Kindergarten)

Special Traditions/After-School Programs