

BNAS Board Report May 2021

From May 17-18th a few BNAS immersion teachers were provided the opportunity to experience a taste of how Missoula Paxon School runs their Spanish Immersion program. On the first day the Principal gave us a tour of the schools where we had the opportunity to meet various teachers and ask them questions. The next morning, we all got to sit in on classes during their morning rituals and witness their program in action. It was an inspiring experience that provided ideas and goals we can possibly implement in our program.

A few things to note:

- Rooms had 100% Spanish content on walls
- Students learn to read English and Spanish in tandem. A few teachers noted that students learn Spanish faster than English (Spanish is a phonetic writing system; phonetic writing systems are the easiest writing systems to learn. The Big Bull writing system is phonetic, which is why the BNAS has been making efforts in establishing it as a uniform writing system within the district). Principal noted that data suggests their English comprehension is just as strong as their peers in other school districts around Missoula.

The BNAS is preparing for the immersion workshop starting June 7th. The work shop will emphasis spoken Blackfoot and provide time to review and learn the writing system.

Yearly awards:

Staff person of the year: Shaylea Tatsey & Lea Whitford

Student of the year: TBT

Parent of the year: TBT