

# CHAMBER EVENT

JULY 18, 2014

# GATOR INVITATIONAL



Photos from recent Business After Hours event.

**B1**

# FRIDAY

This weekend at Griffin City Pool.

**A12**



# The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS



## Expert touts dual language program

**BY THOMAS HOEFER**

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Could you imagine your child going back to school in a few weeks and being taught math in Chinese?

When the new school year starts in August, there will be 14 schools across the state that are home to a dual language immersion program. And that number is likely to keep climbing.

Promoted by the Georgia Workforce Initiative (GWI), an organization associated with the Georgia Department of Education, the signature feature of the dual language program is that at least half of

each school day is taught in a foreign language, including subjects such as math, science and social studies.

Most dual language programs start as early as kindergarten, but surprisingly, that

doesn't seem to be a problem for children.

"It's really amazing. The first day or two can be tough, but they get used to it," said

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# LANGUAGE

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Greg Barfield, lead program specialist for the GWI. "Teachers don't speak any English to them whatsoever. It becomes second nature to (the children)."

The benefits of the program are plenty, according to Barfield.

Not only do students achieve highly in both languages, he said, they also perform as well or better in standardized tests than students who were only taught in English. Barfield added that the dual language program also tends to enhance students' cognitive skills — increased attention, better memory and superior problem-solving skills, to name a few.

And aside from an heightened cultural sensitivity through the program, it better prepares students for the global community and job market, Barfield said, adding that the language immersion program works for all types of schools and learners, regardless of socio-economics.

While it is up to a school or school district, respectively, to implement a dual language immersion program with a foreign language of their choice, Barfield said he would be glad to visit schools and provide more information or make a presentation on the subject.

Asked about the cost for a school to set up a dual language program, Barfield said additional expenses are minimal.

"From a personnel point of view, it doesn't cost any more, because you don't have to hire any additional teachers. You have to make sure you have a teacher on

staff who speaks the foreign language fluently," he said, explaining that the only extra cost would come for materials or sending teachers to conferences.

"Parents who are interested should make an appointment and speak

with their principal," he said.

Additional information on the dual language immersion program can be found at the Georgia Department of Education's website, under world languages and global initiatives.

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**Times Good Fri 7/18 thru Wed 7/23**

**\*SEX TAPE (R)**  
 12:45 3:10 5:25 7:50 10:15

**\*PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE IN 3D (PG)**  
 2:45

**\*PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE IN 2D (PG)**  
 12:30 5:00 7:15 9:30

**\*THE PURGE: ANARCHY (R)**  
 12:05 2:35 5:05 7:35 10:05

**\*PERSECUTED (PG-13)**  
 12:15 2:55 5:15 7:25 9:45

**\*DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES IN 3D (PG-13)**  
 12:00 2:45 5:30 8:30

**\*DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES IN 2D (PG-13)**  
 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

**AMERICA (PG-13)**  
 12:00 2:25 4:55 7:30 9:55

**EARTH TO ECHO (PG)**  
 12:20 2:30 4:40

**TANNY (R)**  
 12:20 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:10

**TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION IN 2D (PG-13)**  
 1:15 4:30 7:45

**THINK LIKE A MAN TOO (PG-13)**  
 7:05 9:50

*\*Pass Restricted*

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