



AGREEMENT OF THE JURY ELECTION OF THE WINNING SCHOOL IN THE CONTEST "SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2021"

JURY:

Mr. Cristóbal Gutiérrez Carrera	President
Mr. Jacobo Gutiérrez R.-Moldes	Secretary
Ms. Victoria Hunt	Member
Ms. Kathryn McKnight	Member
Mr. Francisco Javier Menéndez Sánchez	Member
Ms. Carmen Pidre Bocard	Member

AGENDA:

- I. - Presentation of the 2021 edition
- II. - Evaluation of the finalists. *Elementary School* category
- III.- Evaluation of the finalists. *Middle School* category
- IV. - Decision of the Jury

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2021
<i>Elementary School:</i> Paradise Canyon Elementary School
<i>Middle School:</i> Alfred I. duPont Middle School
<i>High School:</i> ----- void -----

Washington, D.C. April 8th, 2021





ANNEX: Remarks

Paradise Canyon Elementary School in Washington County School District, Utah, has been awarded School of the Year in the Elementary School category.

Paradise is an Immersion Leader school that shows the benefits of immersion programs. It is a school of excellence, recognized by Utah State Board of Education.

Paradise provided a wealth of documents that support the content of their immersion program, demonstrating their teaching methodologies and the professional development organized for their teachers.

Around 50% of the school population is registered in the Dual Language program and those students are evenly divided between Spanish and English speakers.

The state and district fully support the program and the school candidacy for the contest. All subjects are taught in both languages and students can continue the immersion program in Middle and High school, thanks to Utah DLI Secondary Pathway. 100% of Paradise Canyon students passed the AP in Grade 9.

The portfolio describes the tools used to address diversity and students with special needs. The school provides great support to all students, many of them from low-income families, through a variety of programs, involving the community.

The school library has ample resources for bilingual education, and Spanish signs and posters are visible throughout the school's common areas.

The school website shows an effective promotion of the program and the benefits of immersion programs. The ISA logo is on the Home page.

The jury was impressed by the quality of the audiovisual presentation, which shows the school routine with students taking part in daily activities and making the whole school feel part of the program.

The Ministry of Education congratulates Paradise Canyon Elementary School for their outstanding immersion program.



Alfred I. duPont Middle School, from Duval County Public Schools, Florida, has won the School of the Year Contest in the Middle School category.

DuPont is a very diverse school with an eight-year-old dual language program. The rate of Spanish teaching is well balanced: Math, Science and Spanish LA are taught in Spanish. Besides the Dual Language, duPont offers a variety of programs, including International Business and World Language.

The school presentation is very well designed, including interviews, videos, and the portfolio. The portfolio includes tables with good student outcomes both in English and Spanish, and a student enrollment in the program that has increased steadily.

Interviews show that the school Principal fully supports the program and that teachers stress the importance of intercultural and bilingual communication. Teachers have transitioned to virtual teaching, happy to assume the challenge and looking for new ways to enhance in-person teaching. School administration promotes workshops on bilingual and bicultural education for teachers.

Families are very involved and parents feel supported by teachers. In the interviews, parents speak to the strengths of a program which has driven more parents to be engaged in their children's education through cultural activities in Spanish such as Dual Language Family Nights (dance, poetry, songs, food, ...).

The school and classroom libraries include Spanish resources. Spanish signs can be seen all over the school and classrooms.

The school promotes a Dual Language Distinguished Lecture Series to provide inspiring Hispanic role models from various careers who will encourage the students to pursue post-secondary education and recognize the demand for bilingual skills.

The portfolio shows a school that works for the teaching and learning of Spanish in a bilingual environment including the whole community. The result is a strong sense of belonging in students, which increases their awareness of other cultures and promotion of acceptance of diversity.

The Ministry of Education congratulates Alfred I. duPont Middle School for their outstanding dual language program.