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## Cooper dual language academy

Cooper Dual Language Academy boasts a talented staff led by Principal Sergio Rojas and Assistant Principal Diego Leanos. One of these educators is Maria Fernandez, a seasoned Head Start teacher with over two decades of experience in public education. Her extensive background includes working in Chicago, Michigan, and El Paso, while earning her Master's Degree in Special Education from Loyola University of Chicago. Fernandez has endorsements in Bilingual Education and ESL, solidifying her expertise in diverse educational settings. Under Ms. Fernandez' guidance, students thrive in a nurturing environment that prioritizes positive character development and essential skills for academic success. As she emphasizes the importance of family involvement, parental participation plays a crucial role in fostering student growth. In her free time, Fernandez enjoys exploring Chicago, taking Italian classes, and traveling within and outside the United States. The school's application process is administered through Chicago Early Learning, where applications are prioritized based on factors such as age, family need, income, and demographic criteria. While siblings of current students and those applying to their attendance area schools receive priority consideration, placements are not guaranteed for these groups. The staff at Cooper Dual Language Academy includes a diverse range of professionals dedicated to providing comprehensive support. The school's mission revolves around challenging students in various subjects while cultivating higher-level thinking, inquiry-based learning, and proficient reading and writing skills across the curriculum. Cooper Dual Language Academy is a collaborative effort between personnel, parents, community organizations, and businesses to create an inclusive instructional climate that fosters opportunities for all children to contribute and succeed. The academy aims to provide a well-rounded education that prepares students to achieve academic excellence in their native language while acquiring a second language through Transitional Bilingual and heritage/Foreign Language models. Under the leadership of Principal Ms. Martha Alba, the academy strives to create a holistic and nurturing environment that encourages teaching and learning. Ms. Alba has over 25 years of experience as an educator and administrator, having taught middle school grades at J.C. Orozco Academy before becoming principal in 2004. Ms. Alba is committed to providing a comprehensive education that addresses the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. She has successfully implemented bilingual education programs, rigorous math and literacy instruction, and increased access to technology, while fostering strong parent engagement. The academy's passion for arts education is also led by Ms. Alba, who has established partnerships with various organizations to provide quality arts programming. Her love of Mexican music and culture drives her work in mariachi education, which has been instrumental in establishing the first elementary school student mariachi ensemble in CPS in 2008. Ms. Alba holds advanced degrees from Illinois State University, Columbia College, and Governors State University, and is committed to lifelong learning. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and traveling during her free time. La Sra Alba, defensora de las artes, ha estado trabajando para fomentar alianzas con varias organizaciones para proporcionar una programación artística de calidad a la educación en Cooper. Su amor por la música y la cultura mexicana es el motor detrás de su trabajo en torno a la educación del mariachi. Ella cree en el aprendizaje permanente y espera iniciar sus estudios de doctorado pronto. En su tiempo libre, disfruta pasar tiempo con su familia, leer y viajar. Información para las familias de Cooper sobre la escuela secundaria: La planificación para la escuela secundaria puede ser un momento muy estresante. Su Consejero Escolar está aquí para ayudarlo a investigar y prepararse, aplicar y rendir exámenes. Están aceptando solicitudes del miércoles 13 de septiembre al jueves 9 de noviembre de 2023. Para acceder, crear y presentar una solicitud, visite [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu). Para obtener más información sobre las escuelas secundarias CPS, visite [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu) e haga clic en "Buscador de Escuelas". Meet your Counselor / Conoce a tu Consejero Mr. Leños is the School Counselor at Cooper Dual Language Academy, where he oversees student guidance and support. With a background in Psychology from Loyola University Chicago, Mr. Leños has also recently earned his Master's degree in School Counseling. A native of Chicago, he enjoys expressing himself through art and photography. As an avid fan of Marvel Comics, Mr. Leños brings enthusiasm to the counseling process, often incorporating pop culture references into conversations. When not at work, he can be found enjoying classic Chicago eats or taking a stroll along the Lakefront.