

# The Story of Two Way Immersion in South Lake Tahoe

2006 - now



Thank you 2020 TWI graduates, TWI families and  
the community that surrounded and supported  
TWI...we have come a long way!

## Two Way Immersion...Comes to Bijou Community School, not without some drama...

❑ **August- December:** Parents meet weekly, visit Kings Beach, and work hard to educate the community. Then they meet with administrators, board members, and Dr. Tarwater... a true community effort.

And [www.tahoetwowayimmersion.com](http://www.tahoetwowayimmersion.com) is created

❑ **January 2007:** The fate of TWI...will it fly?

❑ Things got a bit heated...hundreds showed up in support, two opposed...and the headline read “divided”

❑ And then there were the nay-sayers...the intent of TWI was to reduce these stereotypes and small mindedness

❑ Lots of opinions came out...this was in response to the naysayer

❑ **March 2007:** Two Way Immersion is approved by the board of education!

❑ **April 2007:** Two Way Immersion at Bijou is ready to go!



## Where it all started... 2006-2007 school year

In the summer of 2006, parents from around the community sent a letter to LTUSD asking to explore the possibility of a Two Way Immersion Program at Bijou Community School. With lots of hard work, research, visits to other schools, monetary donations, and commitment from the 20+ students and their families, an amazing teacher (Maestra Shaina), and a supportive administration and other staff at Bijou, by the Fall of 2007, we had our first kindergarten class...20 students who are now 2020 graduates! Enjoy the articles written back then about TWI and even the original website that has been updated throughout the years.



*Ms. Karen Tinlin, Bijou's Principal in 2006 and Ms. Sue O'Connor, LTUSD bilingual coordinator were huge supporters within LTUSD in helping us get TWI started!*



# TWI Kindergarten 2007-2008

...the very first 20 students!



*Bijou's FIRST TWI Teacher,  
Maestra Shaina (Lucas)!*





# TWI First (2008-2009) & Second Grade (2009-2010)

AT BIJOU COMMUNITY SCHOOL



*Maestra Martinez, Bijou's original 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and now Bijou's Principal*



*Maestra Loughrin,  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade TWI  
teacher*



As our 2020 graduates finished 1<sup>st</sup> grade, the Two Way Immersion expanded. The success our TWI students had in learning English and Spanish in kinder and first, made headlines, and more families wanted to join!

So, parents campaigned again, and the LTUSD school board voted, and two kinder class became two... now 44 students were being educated in English and Spanish!!!

READ: [LTUSD Expands TWI](#)



**From 2010-2012, when our 2020 grads were in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the Two Way Immersion program grew and brought many changes to Bijou with an outpouring of community support!**

*Read all the THANK YOU's from back then:*



- ❖ [El Dorado Community Foundation Donates to TWI for the 4<sup>th</sup> year!](#)
- ❖ [Ernie's Coffee Shop throws a Burger Night for TWI](#)
- ❖ [Heavenly Ski Resort Donates to TWI Again](#)
- ❖ [Rotary Club of SLT Donates Time and Money to TWI](#)
- ❖ [Super 8 Motel donates space for Community Building within TWI](#)
- ❖ [Parasol Donates to Bijou & TWI](#)



*Ms. Acebal taught the 2020 grads in both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade TWI at Bijou!*

*The support from the businesses and nonprofits in Tahoe is and was truly amazing. The Two Way Immersion program brings an outpouring of donations of time, money, and space to Bijou Students. THANK YOU TAHOE!*

**ALSO ...in Fall of 2012, yet another cohort of kindergarteners start at Bijou...there are now 66 students per grade!**





# 2012-2013: 5<sup>th</sup> grade TWI graduate from Bijou

Third cohort of kindergarteners is added...from these 20 to 66 children now starting in kinder! This fifth grade class: proof positive that TWI works...bilingual, biliterate, and bi-cultural. Making the world a better place one child at a time! Everyone is so proud of this very first class!



Maestra Terri Houser, 5<sup>th</sup> grade TWI Teacher







# 2013-2016: Middle School Years

And once again, our 2020 graduates were the guinea pigs... LTUSD laid out a plan for STMS, hired the teachers, and the first class of TWI students took on the next challenge: 25% of their class time at STMS in Spanish!!!

## Pathway for TWI Students at South Tahoe Middle School

Academic Core	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Language Arts			
Mathematics			
Science			
Social Science	Social Science in Spanish	Social Science in Spanish	Social Science in Spanish
Language Other than English		Native Spanish I (first semester)	Native Spanish I (second semester)
Visual and Performing Arts			



The teachers who stepped up to teach TWI at STMS included Mr. Jorge Gonzalez, Mr. James Seider, Ms. Jillian Raymond (not pictured), & of course, Ms. Karen Goldberg!



# TWI at STHS (2016-2020)

As the never ending guinea pigs, the TWI graduates of 2020 also continued on their paths of biliteracy at STHS... there were some bumps in the road, a few classes that didn't make it, but many that did, and this winding road now comes to a close for you in 2020. Congratulations students for stepping up to the challenge and taking the bilingual and bicultural journey, and extra kudos to those of you who finished with the Seal of Biliteracy!

We hope your growth into adulthood is most impacted by our most essential goal back in 2007...that the Two Way Immersion Program brings together two cultures in our community. YOU are the backbone, along with your families, in creating a bond and building an understanding with each other beyond language. The TWI program was created to promote equity among families of different cultures, as well as appreciation of our differences that make each of us unique! We are so proud of you, TWI Class of 2020!

Click here: [A TRIBUTE TO YOU!](#)



*Some more dedicated teachers who helped keep TWI alive at STHS! Mr. Salcedo, Ms. Sandoval, Ms. Tillson, & Ms. Miller (Dept. Chair)*



# THANK YOU!

**2020 Graduates and Families...THANK YOU** so much...as the pioneers of Two Way Immersion, your commitment, dedication and tenacity in seeing the positives of this program are the reason this program is working and growing! In 2007, there were 20 of you; Now there are almost 700 TWI students within LTUSD! You made this happen...this is your legacy! We hope your biliteracy serves you well!

**TWI Teachers, Administrators, and Board Members (Past & Present):** Thank you for your support, for your diligence in maintaining an integrity to the TWI program that is second to none, and for your love of our children. Teachers, thank you for the countless hours you have put in to the implementation of Two Way Immersion at Bijou, STMS and STHS!

**THANK YOU** to the whole Tahoe Community...for your trust in a new idea, for your support in building biliteracy in Tahoe, and for your appreciations of our students and our families! Lastly, thank you for challenging this program and ultimately making it better!

