**Angelo Giaudrone Middle School**

**IB MYP Language Policy**

The Language Policy is a document used collectively by the staff of Angelo Giaudrone Middle School. It was created in alignment with the school’s mission and vision statements, as well as the Middle Years Program (MYP) standards and practices. This document provides an overview of the school’s beliefs and aims regarding language instruction. The policy aims to provide uniformity and clear expectations for all stakeholders regarding language acquisition.

**Philosophy**

At Angelo Giaudrone Middle School we believe language is the primary means of communicating and learning. We believe all teachers are language teachers, whose responsibility it is to nurture various forms of communication for a variety of reasons. We believe language acquisition is a life-long process and a central component of intellectual and personal growth.

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| **Aims** | **Therefore, we strive to…** |
| Enable students to learn and use language effectively, appropriately, accurately, and confidently. | Teach subject specific + academic vocabulary, transfer skills between subject groups, and provide feedback to revise thinking along the way |
| Develop students’ powers of oral and written communication. | Teach speaking and writing for different purposes and audiences, encourage student to student talk, and provide opportunities to present/perform in front of a variety of audiences |
| Enable students to develop and use language skills in a variety of contexts and purposes. | Include a variety of products in our GRASPS tasks, student involvement in announcements/assemblies, and presenting community projects |
| Promote the appreciation, understanding, and analysis of literature. | Provide access to diverse levels of books, offer a variety of novel studies, book trailers, podcasts, informal book groups, and school plays |
| Encourage students to explore language to understand the differing perspectives of people from other cultures. | Make connections through Interdisciplinary Units, explore music from other cultures, discuss current events from around the world, learn a variety of culinary foods, and access to library section of books in other languages |
| Provide an opportunity for enjoyment, creativity, and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of language and literature. | Teach creative writing, offer choice in style (comic strips, websites, presentations, podcasts, etc.), teach debate, write dialogues, voiceovers, and create newscasts |

**Language Demographics**

Angelo Giaudrone Middle School has a population of approximately 450 students. The primary language spoken is English. About 20% of our population have a Mother Tongue other than English. Languages spoken by students at school include Spanish, Vietnamese, Samoan, Cambodian, Russian, Tagalog, Bantu, Swahili, Ukrainian, Farsi, French, Ilokano, Khmer, Pashto, Pilipino/Filipino, Romanian, Thai, Tongan, and Wolof.

**Primary Language Instruction**

The primary language of instruction at Angelo Giaudrone Middle School is English. The majority of the student body speak English as their primary language. Available supports for multilingual learners include translated closed captioning on Microsoft PowerPoint within individual classrooms, translated texts, translation apps, partnering with peers who speak the same language, and allowing verbal responses/gestures when appropriate.

**Language B Instruction**

Year One students take an exploratory language program that introduces a semester of each German and French or French and Korean.

Year Two (Phases 1-2) students have a choice between French or Korean and are enrolled in a full year of beginning language instruction.

Year Three (Phases 2-3) students continue their chosen pathway and are enrolled in a full year of intermediate language instruction.

Students who successfully complete years 2 and 3 of Language B can receive one high school credit in Language Acquisition.

**Mother Tongue Support**

Angelo Giaudrone Middle School encourages the development of Mother Tongue and culture both at home and school. We support families sharing their languages and cultures with our AGMS family. Students whose native language is not English are given a language screener to determine if they would benefit from receiving English language acquisition supports in place of Language B.

**Multilingual Learners**

Angelo Giaudrone Middle School is in alignment with Tacoma Public Schools Mission Statement to prepare limited English proficient students to live successfully in an English-speaking culture and in a multilingual, multicultural world. This preparation includes providing developmentally appropriate instruction in the English language, maintaining respect for the student’s native culture and heritage, and developing a sense of self-worth and pride in the student.

Angelo Giaudrone Middle School offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced multilingual supports in place of Language B for students identified by the WIDA language screener. Students who have passed reading, writing, listening, and speaking portions of the language screener exit the program, join a language B instruction class, and continue to be monitored in other classes.

This policy will be available to the Angelo Giaudrone community on the school website in the IB section and individual requests for the policy can be sent to the IB Coordinator. The AGMS Language Policy will be reviewed regularly by staff, leadership, and other relevant stakeholders in accordance with the MYP Self-study process which occurs every five years. Once reviewed, the policy will be submitted to the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) for approval.

**Revised February 2024**