



AMERICAN SCHOOL
OF PARIS Founded 1946

ASP's Language policy:

The ASP community is a dynamic multi-cultural environment. Language is the key component of cultural understanding and as an American school the language of instruction is English. To align to our core values, our language philosophy and aims are as follows:

Philosophy

- We believe that language is the primary means of communication, and its acquisition is a lifelong process and a central component of intellectual and personal growth. Proficiency in one language is transferable to other languages, and aides the student in acquiring competence in other curricular areas.
- As an expression of culture and identity, the continued development of the mother-tongue language is critical. Language learning promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding and must be fostered in all aspects of the school community.
- All teachers strive to recognize the language needs of all students and work to serve these needs within the context of their subject areas, and outside the classroom as well.

Aims

- Our language programs aim to enable students to learn and use language effectively, accurately, and confidently, in a variety of contexts and purposes, in both oral and written forms.
- We promote the appreciation, understanding, and analysis of literature, and encourage students to explore language as a means to understand differing perspectives of people from other cultures; we emphasize written and oral expression for students to develop their own voice.
- We aim to develop students' awareness of the role of language in all subject areas and in other ways of knowing, and to provide opportunities for enjoyment, creativity, and intellectual



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stimulation through knowledge of language and literature.

Languages offered at ASP

- Throughout Grades 9–12, students study English language and literature; students also study French or Spanish. All classes, except language classes, are taught in English. French is taught as a Language A. Spanish and French are taught as Language B.
- Through its IB Diploma Program, ASP offers Group I courses in English Literature and French Language and Literature. We also support students interested in the self-taught Language A Literature SL option using external tutors. Group II courses are Spanish B and ab initio, French B and ab initio.

Students may take IB language exams at either higher or standard level (with the exception of the Language A Literature school-supported self-taught exam, which is only offered at SL).

Mother Tongue: Instruction and Language Use

- The school provides opportunities for tutors outside school who teach language and literature to students wishing to develop mother-tongue competence. This includes preparation for the IB self-taught Language A Literature SL exam.
- In class we speak the target language (English in an English-medium class, French in a French-medium class, Spanish in Spanish class, and French in French class.)
- In our public spaces we recognize the social importance, educational value and comfort of people speaking their 'mother tongue'. Thus, in our halls we may hear an array of different languages. In our group interactions we focus on English as the language of inclusion.

English and French support:

- ASP offers after-school support sessions for students seeking to improve their language skills in English and in French. There are trained ASP teachers who run these sessions.
- Professional development opportunities for how to best meet the needs of our language learners are regularly provided to our faculty by both internal and external specialists. These specialists give our teachers strategies (differentiation, scaffolding, alternative assessments, etc.) to use in their classes to help our language learners.