


↘ 2022-2023

**MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY:**

The mission statement (mentioned above) is the foundation for our language policy. As a student-centered school, we value the diversity of our students. This includes the wide range of languages and linguistic capabilities of our multi-national student body. While English is the language of instruction, respect for and curiosity about other cultures and languages are encouraged as a part of lifelong learning and as a response to our diverse and ever-changing world.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of LANGUAGES@CAISL is to explain the philosophy of language use and learning at CAISL, the procedures currently in place, and how both are driven by our mission statement. It is a working document that will be regularly reviewed and revised.



# LANGUAGES AT CAISL

**mission** CAISL is a student-centered educational community in which we challenge ourselves and each other to do our best and to make positive contributions to our diverse and ever-changing world.



## **Beliefs:**

- CAISL is student-centered and aims to meet the needs of our learners by providing them with appropriate language support to access the curriculum.
- Developing literacy in one's home language is essential.
- Learning a new language and about other cultures promotes global citizenship.
- Language teaching is the responsibility of all faculty.
- A caring and safe environment supports language acquisition.
- Language acquisition is an essential part of life-long learning.
- CAISL Student and Faculty Profile:
  - More than 75% of our student body has a mother tongue other than English. Our students represent on average 50 countries. All of our faculty and educational administration speak English, and many are fluent in or have another language as their mother tongue.

## **PROCEDURES:**

English is the medium of instruction in all classes except Foundations of Portuguese (FoP) and other World Language Classes (currently Portuguese, French, Chinese, and Spanish).

Teachers are expected to speak to students in the language in which they teach them at all times, in and out of class, with the obvious exception being in the first year of a foreign language class (Portuguese, French, Chinese, or Spanish).

Other school personnel are expected to speak to students in English except when trying to help a student in physical or emotional distress, in which case the member of staff will help the child in the child's best language, if he/she knows it.

Teachers will ensure that students speak to each other in class in the language in which the class is taught. Rare exceptions would be the first semester a student is in a mainstream class, when a classmate may be allowed to provide brief explanations of difficult concepts in the student's best language, or the first quarter in the Early Childhood 3 and 4 year old program where students frequently receive instructions in English and Portuguese until they are familiar with just English.

No restrictions exist on languages used by students out of class, in social times.

Written school communications are delivered in American Standard English.

Depending on the nature of the written school communication and the needs of the various linguistic groups, translation of a limited number of documents may be provided.

As an American school, CAISL teachers use American Standard English in their teaching of English Language Arts.

As an international school, CAISL teachers accept as correct the other standard forms of English which the students may have learned.

## **Foundations of English (FoE) Grades 1-8**

Language support is available from a teacher who is specialized in helping students achieve the level of English which allows them to be successful in their classes. Students will receive this support in a variety of ways including small group work, immersion, sheltered classes when appropriate, or monitoring.

FoE students in grades 1-8 will receive reports on their achievement for language progress based on their individual language goals determined by the FoE teacher in conjunction with the Language Arts teacher.

FoE will be the program for students acquiring English until such time as they are able to meet the requirements of grade-level English Language Arts.

## **ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESL) (GRADES 9 AND 10)**

Students identified with a mother tongue other than English and without formal education in an English-speaking school, will be tested prior to admission for Grades 9-12. For admission to Grade 9, a student must have conversational proficiency. For promotion to or admission to Grade 10, a student must demonstrate a command of English which indicates that a year of specialized instruction at CAISL will result in readiness for Grade 11.





## Portuguese as a Native Language (PNL) and Foundations of Portuguese (FoP)

There are two teachers in each Early Childhood 3 and 4 year old class and in each Kindergarten class. One of the teachers is a speaker of English and the other a speaker of Portuguese, although often both teachers are bilingual. The main language of the classroom is English and there is a Portuguese class each day. During the early days of each school year, these students may hear all classroom instructions in both English and Portuguese, but as the children become more familiar with the English language, the dual language instructions are gradually withdrawn.

Students in Early Childhood and Kindergarten also receive Portuguese instruction in a combined program which includes both those new to Portuguese and those fluent in Portuguese. Students in Grades 1 through 9 are required to take either PNL or Foundations of Portuguese unless they are Beginners in both Portuguese AND English, in which case they will be scheduled

only for the Foundations of English program until such time as they can reasonably be expected to begin learning another language.

PNL and Foundations of Portuguese are offered in Grades 1 through 12.

PNL follows the Ministry of Education program adapted for the needs of CAISL students.

Foundations of Portuguese is offered to students who are new to the language (except to those who have a beginner level of Foundations of English). It is taught in combined classes of Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels. This program will give students the opportunity to express themselves in Portuguese and understand the culture of Portugal. Students who complete the Foundations of Portuguese program through the Advanced level may be eligible to move into Transitional PNL (Portuguese as a Native Language). During the transition, they will typically receive sheltered assessment.



## OTHER WORLD LANGUAGES

Elective languages offered as part of the CAISL curriculum, beginning at Grade 7 and contingent upon student interest, are Chinese, French, and Spanish.

There are currently no elective world language courses offered earlier than Grade 7.

Students who begin studying French or Spanish in Grade 7 or after, may continue with that language in the IB Diploma Program. Chinese as a Foreign Language is a four-year program and students who begin studying Chinese in Grade 7 and continue through Grade 10 would need to pursue a different language option should they enroll in the IB Diploma Program (IBDP).

IBDP students may take their mother tongue language as independent study with an outside tutor as part of their IB Diploma Program upon approval of the IB Diploma Coordinator.