

International School at Dundee

Language Policy

2022

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Philosophy

The International School at Dundee recognizes that language is fundamental to all learning because it permeates the entire curriculum. Therefore, throughout our curriculum, we foster the development of the language of instruction and world languages.

Every teacher at the International School at Dundee is a language teacher and recognizes the importance of this role within the IB philosophy. The basic skills for all types of communication - speaking, listening, writing and reading language are explicitly planned for using our GPS scope and sequence. Therefore, administrators, teachers and support staff participate in ongoing Professional Development (PD) in the field of language acquisition in order to support L1 and L2 language learners. Ell and FLES teachers provide training to staff on an ongoing basis.

Multilingualism and the development of critical literacy are considered important factors in fostering international-mindedness through the promotion of cultural identity, intercultural awareness and global citizenship. All teachers at the International School at Dundee are language teachers. Through the IB language program, we aim to develop confident, curious, highly proficient and enthusiastic learners. The learning of any language is developmental by nature, building constructively on what each individual student knows to help them reach their potential and further their learning.

As an international school, we are strongly committed to providing all students (K-5) with access to the Spanish language by utilizing different mediums for language and cultural experiences throughout the curriculum. Additionally, this school's belief is that each student should have the opportunity to maintain and develop their mother tongue(s). Acquiring additional languages allows students to reflect and explore a variety of cultural perspectives and encourages and fosters clear communication as global citizens. The use of many resources provides an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

Language in Practice

For our English Language Learners, we offer a comprehensive program through which they acquire the skills and knowledge needed to access the regular curriculum. We provide support to our students and their families to adjust to a new language, learning environment, and culture.

We promote maintenance and enrichment of the language spoken at home by encouraging families to continue speaking, reading, and writing in those languages. We also recommend that families take advantage of the language opportunities available in our community and within our school, (i.e. multi linguistic and multicultural books). This would include students checking out books from the Learning Commons in their L1 language.

All aspects of our language program require formal as well as ongoing informal assessments. These assessments are used to plan appropriate instruction and to evaluate student progress. The ELL teacher provides additional support and resources to staff as needed. Additionally, the FLES teacher provides visual aids to staff in order to support L2 student learning.

Resources that ELL teacher provides to support students include:

- IB traits charts in other languages (i.e., Japanese, etc.)
- Vocabulary charts with synonyms and antonyms
- Visuals and vocabulary charts for various units (i.e., mystery unit, water cycle, rock cycle, etc.)
- Math vocabulary charts with visuals for different concepts and operations
- Graphic organizers for sentence expansion and for writing paragraphs, essays, and fractured fairy tales

Communication with Parents

- We recognize the importance of maintaining mother tongue literacy in the New Parent Orientation and Open House presentations
- ELL/ESS support is integrated into classroom instruction and transdisciplinary studies
- Parent conferences are conducted primarily in English, but translation can be arranged
- The school psychologist and speech therapist provide translations for PPT documents
- Our district provides free translation services for all families

Raising Cultural Awareness

- Comparative cultural studies through IB units
- Student visitation between ISD and local Japanese school
- Parents' cultural sharing in the classrooms - e.g. Diwali
- Picture books in different languages for simultaneous classroom reading

- Students are given opportunities to use Mother Tongue for final presentations or projects
- All Greenwich Library and Epic! Ebooks are available in a large range of mother tongues
- Research tools are available in many languages
- Multi linguistic and multicultural books are available in the Learning Commons
- Student action is nurtured and encouraged when students share read alouds from home.
- Lesson closure includes mother tongue communication between those students
- Families showcase their cultures via PTA events (i.e., International Night)
- PTA parents organize programs and events for a range of cultural experiences via Classical Cafe and performance groups.
- Classical cafe once a month presenting arts from all over the world

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