



# ***Rogers International School***

## ***Language Policy***

As a Kindergarten-Eighth grade IB World School authorized to offer the Primary Years Programme and Middle Years Programme, we value the significant role that language plays in a student's learning experiences, including second language teaching and mother tongue development.

We recognize that language development is the major connecting element across all subjects within both the PYP and MYP. It is also included throughout IB Programme Standards and Practices. As such, this is our language philosophy. We are committed to:

- Placing importance on language learning, including mother tongue and other languages
- Collaborative planning and reflection which recognizes that all teachers are responsible for language development
- Teaching and learning which demonstrates that all teachers are responsible for language development. This includes inquiry-based learning experiences that occur throughout the day, in all subject areas and across subject areas.

### **Language Profile**

Rogers International School students come from a multitude of backgrounds, ethnicities and nationalities. Within this, approximately 60% of RIS students have a mother language other than English. Primarily, the languages represented are Spanish, Eastern European, South Asian and French Creole.

### **Strategies and Interventions**

- o English will be the primary language of instruction at Rogers International School.
- o Students whose primary /mother tongue is one other than English shall receive EL instruction to improve understanding, speaking, reading, writing and critical thinking skills in English.
  - ❖ All teachers have a vested interest in supporting all student learning, including speakers of other languages. Teachers will integrate information from the curriculum connection binder, compiled by RIS staff, across all disciplines in order to support EL instruction.
  - ❖ EL strategies will be implemented by all staff, with strategies obtained through federal and state mandated trainings. If necessary, there will be sheltered classrooms.
- o Certified ESL teachers will provide services to EL students according to state and federal guidelines.

- o The Inquiry Center will provide materials to support students whose primary/mother is other than English. Also provided will be print and electronic resources to connect support the language development of all students. Informational literacy skills will be incorporated so the access of current electronic resources is accessible for all. A maker-space and broadcast center (Blachley Road) is also focused on the promotion of language and communication. It is multi-sensory and transdisciplinary.
  - ❖ Additional resources include: ReadWords, Epic! and Skybrary
- o Students will receive Spanish or Mandarin instruction, by a certified World Language teacher, with the amount of time dependent upon their grade level.
  - ❖ Pursuant to the MYP criteria, Upper School students will receive a minimum of 50 hours of Language Acquisition instruction during the course of the year.
- o Beginning in Kindergarten at Blachley Road and First Grade at Strawberry Hill, students will be exposed to an additional language via the Language Acquisition program. At Blachley Road, Mandarin and Spanish are offered at this time. At Strawberry Hill, Spanish is offered. After leaving the Lower School (PYP/K-4) and entering the Upper School (MYP/5-8), students will choose one of the languages as their focus and study that language during their four years in the Upper School.