

Quail Run Elementary School Primary Years Program: Language Agreements

Paradise Valley School District Vision statement: Every learner empowered for a lifetime of success.

QRES Mission statement: We engage, inspire, and nurture global thinkers through high-quality instruction, meaningful educational opportunities, and dynamic learning experiences. We embrace lifelong learning, exhibit compassion toward others, and promote intercultural understanding.

Beliefs:

At Quail Run Elementary School we believe all teachers are language instructors and all students who pass through our doorway are language learners. We are committed to inspiring our students to become principled, caring, and globally-minded lifelong learners, who will help create a better and more peaceful world. Each student has his or her own background and unique contributions. We believe that recognizing and supporting our students' mother tongue languages is crucial to their development. At Quail Run we have made a commitment to our students and parents to provide a learning community that promotes and supports language diversity.

Identification:

Mother tongue languages of all students are identified at the time of registration. Students in need of additional services will be identified at the beginning of the school year or when the student enters Quail Run Elementary School. All students listed as speaking a language other than English will be screened for EL support, as required by the state of Arizona. By identifying our language populations, we are able to inform our teachers and staff so we can strengthen our learning community and integrate languages into instruction.

Scope and Sequence:

The scope and sequence of our language program is determined by the state of Arizona. As an entity they have collaborated with classroom teachers, administration, and experts in the field to create a policy that meets both IB PYP and state/national standards. We are required to abide by the document as described below.

Instruction:

Classroom Instruction:

Language is the foundation of our curriculum. All instruction at Quail Run Elementary School is delivered in English due to state legislation. If other mother languages are spoken or read, students will be encouraged to be open-minded and inquirers. Students are instructed in all areas

of language arts. Teachers are expected to create a print-rich environment, use best instructional practices, and model appropriate language use for all students. In addition to learning language from their teachers, they can also learn from their peers.

EL:

EL students are supported by their classroom teacher, EL teacher, and support staff through documentation of learning based on Arizona's EL Proficiency Standards. EL students are assessed using the guidelines in our assessment policy. Students are assessed at the end of each school year to identify their language proficiency level for the following year. Exited, proficient students will be monitored for ongoing language proficiency.

Mother Tongue Support:

Quail Run Elementary School offers Spanish instruction to all students; otherwise all instruction is in English. State law requires us to teach using English only. To support our diverse population, our classrooms and school library try to provide books in the mother tongue languages of our students. Parents are involved and encouraged to share and celebrate their mother tongue language with their children. This strengthens the children's language skills and instills a sense of confidence and importance about their culture. Students are free to be proud of their culture and their abilities. At Quail Run Elementary School, we respect and celebrate our differences as globally-minded learners.

Spanish Instruction:

All students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade receive language instruction in Spanish for a minimum of 45 minutes per week. Spanish instruction includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The cognates and vocabulary basics learned in Spanish will assist students in oral language development and vocabulary. This class is also taught as an exploratory course, enabling students to be reflective and knowledgeable of the world around them. During class students are exposed to cultures and traditions of Spanish speaking countries around the world to encourage international mindedness.

Assessment:

Student language proficiency will be assessed by state, district, and PYP assessment policy.

Professional Development:

Our staff is expected to attend PYP training as well as professional development that supports language arts instruction.

Resources:

Our media technician incorporates culturally-relevant and multilingual books that are accessible to all students and staff. In addition to our school library, the staff has access to guided reading collections for classroom instruction. A staff resource section has been created to provide various IB resources. All staff have access to www.ibo.org. Quail Run Elementary School provides 1-1 interactive technology for every student, and many online resources are available to students and staff for instructional purposes.

This policy is reviewed annually and revisions are made as needed.
revised August 2023