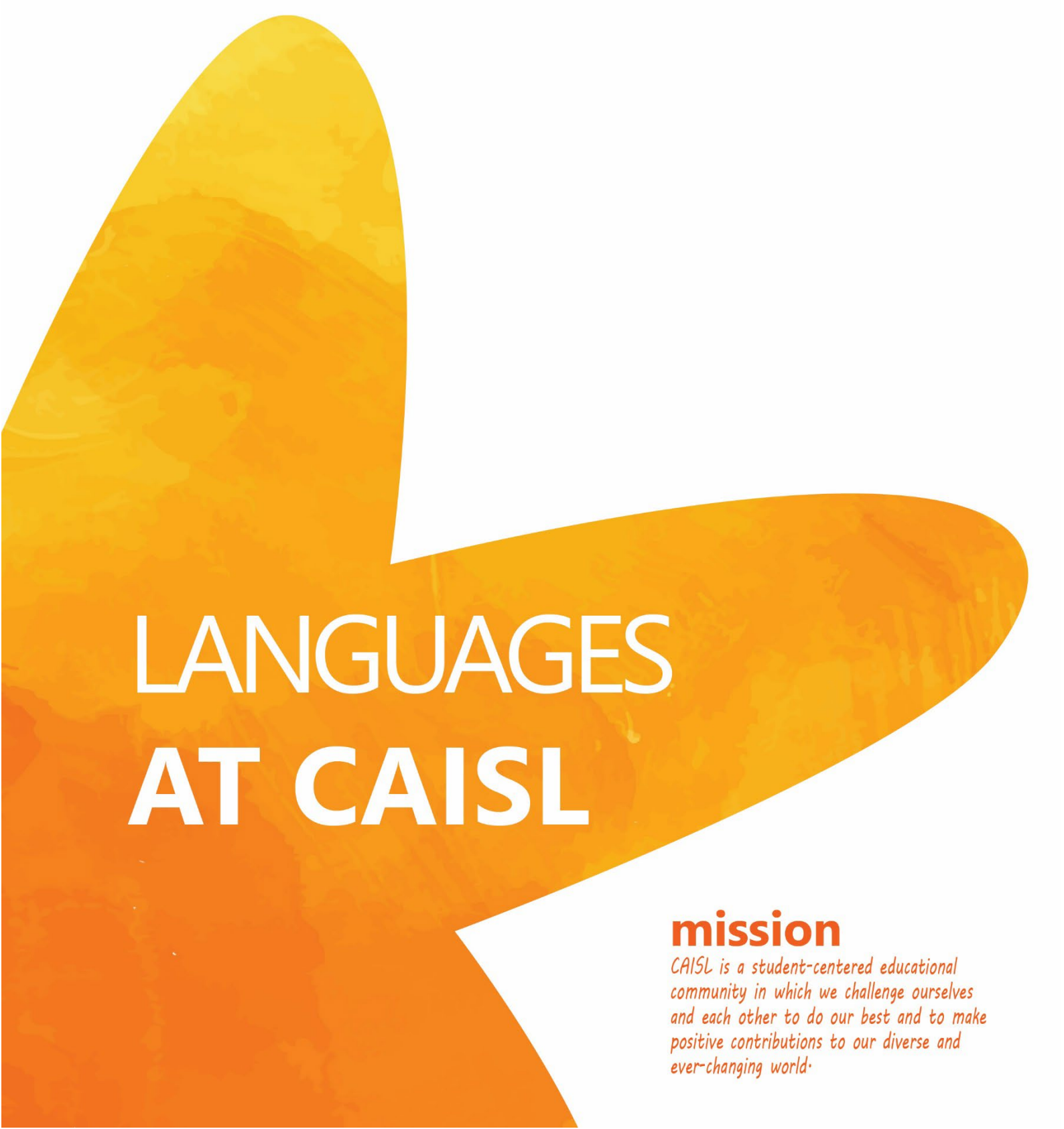


SCHOOL YEAR  
**2024-25**



**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.*



## MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY:

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. Respect for and curiosity about other cultures and languages is encouraged as a part of lifelong learning and as a response to our "diverse and ever-changing world".

The primary goal of the language program at CAISL is to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment where students can develop strong communication skills and appreciate the value of multilingualism. This document aims to provide guidelines for the instruction of language within the school community, ensuring a respectful and culturally sensitive atmosphere. It is a working document that will be regularly reviewed and revised.

## HOME LANGUAGE-MOTHER TONGUE

CAISL recognizes that preserving one's mother tongue is crucial not only for language development in English, but also for fostering a sense of belonging, cultural pride, and overall well-being. A student's mother tongue serves as the base for cognitive and emotional expression. It is the initial language through which thoughts and feelings are understood and communicated, playing a vital role in shaping cognitive processes. Apart from its linguistic role, a student's mother tongue is linked to their cultural identity, fostering a sense of heritage and community. Proficiency in one's mother tongue not only enhances communication skills but also lays a foundation for learning additional languages.

CAISL aims to support this belief through support of home language opportunities where possible. This can take the form of language clubs after school (when the home language is not offered as part of the curriculum), resources for online language support and tutoring, library materials, translation at parent teacher conferences (as available) and events throughout the school year to celebrate the representation of languages and cultures at CAISL.



## LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

**English as an Additional Program (EAL)** (1st through 10<sup>th</sup> Grade) courses offered to support English language learners.

For students who are identified as English Language Learners (ELLs)<sup>1</sup> in Grades 1-10, support is available to help them acquire the language and succeed in their classes. Students will receive this support in a variety of ways including but not limited to small group work, additional scaffolds and support materials, immersion, sheltered classes and, when appropriate, monitoring.

ELL students in Grades 1-10 will receive reports on their achievement for language progress based on their individual language goals determined by the EAL teacher in collaboration with the Language Arts teacher. When students have English proficiency that allows them to successfully meet the requirements of grade-level English Language Arts they will no longer be a part of the program. This is based on evidence through language assessments, class work, and teacher observations.

## PORTUGUESE AT CAISL

Any student at CAISL, regardless of proficiency level, can learn Portuguese. Portuguese is offered from EC3/4 through Grade 12.

### LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA (LP) (MOTHER TONGUE PORTUGUESE)

Students with mother tongue or equivalent academic level language proficiency will be in *Língua Portuguesa* classes (LP). *Língua Portuguesa* courses will develop students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills and explore historical and cultural topics about Portugal and read grade appropriate Portuguese literature.

In Grades 11 and 12, students may continue to study Portuguese/*Língua Portuguesa* (Academic level Portuguese).



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<sup>1</sup> Students who are receiving extra support to access the curriculum and acquire English skills they need.





## PORTUGUESE AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (PAL)

Students acquiring Portuguese will be in the Portuguese as an Additional Language Program (PAL). PAL Students will develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills and explore historical and cultural topics about Portugal. In Grades 11 and 12 grade PAL students have the option to take Advanced Portuguese/Portuguese B (Language Acquisition with some knowledge of the language required)



## ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to learn an additional language from Grades 7-12. Current course offerings are Spanish, Portuguese, and French (Beginning in Grade 9, CAISL offers online course offerings which include Latin, Chinese and American Sign Language (ASL).

The development and maintenance of the Mother Tongue for all learners is supported through access to mother tongue texts in our library, use of translanguaging<sup>2</sup> in the classroom, encouraging multi-age cross grade level language experiences, and opportunities for self-study for students who require a language that is not currently taught at CAISL.

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<sup>2</sup> Translanguaging – allowing students to use their entire linguistic repertoire.

The objectives of CAISL's language program are:

- To guarantee that language instruction is tailored to each learner's needs, through documentation on language profiles and development of each student, accessible to stakeholders.
- To develop social and academic language skills in English and other languages at all proficiency levels.
- To maintain an up to date, engaging, and safe setting for language learning following current trends in language acquisition research, such as promoting translanguaging.
- To provide all departments and teachers across grade levels, enough training, resources, tools, and materials to support language learning across the curriculum.
- To motivate all students to respect and embrace bilingualism or multilingualism through opportunities to learn another language.
- To honor and encourage the development of each student's home language, recognizing that the diversity of languages enhances both intellectual and social development. Providing opportunities to maintain mother tongue at all grade levels and as self-study in IB when a language is not offered by the school.
- To promote active involvement with the language, history, culture, and society of Lisbon and Portugal's local community.
- To emphasize that, regardless of their subject area, all educators teach languages.

