



Sawyer Road Elementary School International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Language Policy

Vision:

The vision of Sawyer Road Elementary is to be a school where rigor, relevance, and relationships promote excellence and success for all learners. We aim to set high expectations and use inquiry-based, real-world experiences to engage all students. Relationships built here will produce lifelong learners and global citizens. The Sawyer Road Elementary Language Policy supports the district's vision and mission by affording students opportunities to develop English and acquire a second language through various learning experiences. By providing comprehensive language support and instruction, we strive to empower all learners to become proficient communicators and lifelong language learners.

Philosophy:

- All teachers are language teachers.
- Language is a primary means of learning and communicating.
- Language acquisition is to be promoted as a partnership between all members of our community including parents, students, teachers and staff.
- Mother tongue languages help form cultural and personal identity and should be respected.
- The shared experience of learning a language creates cohesion among students from diverse backgrounds and promotes international mindedness.
- Learning world languages is an integral part of becoming a global citizen.

Language of Instruction:

The primary language of instruction throughout the school year at Sawyer Road is English (Language A). As mandated by the Georgia Department of Education and a requirement of the Georgia Standards of Excellence, English instruction is an essential element of the PYP curriculum content. Our language instruction is guided by the Science of Reading philosophy, which informs our teaching practices in phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. While English is the primary language of instruction at Sawyer Road, we are committed to the continued and support and development of the students' mother tongues. Classrooms and the library are filled with multicultural books and books in other languages. Whenever possible our units of inquiry

IBelieve. IBecome. IBelong.

A.L. Burruss-Sawyer Road-Marietta Sixth Grade Academy-Marietta Middle-Marietta High



include opportunities to research and explore the cultures and languages represented in our school.

Language acquisition at Sawyer Road in the PYP program aims to increase cultural awareness and global citizenship. Our school recognizes the importance of nurturing and valuing all languages spoken within our diverse community. In addition to English, weekly Spanish language classes are integrated into the curriculum, providing students with opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish, and deepen their understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. We offer a FLEX program, which means the goal of the program is to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture of Latin America with the intention of creating more open-minded internationally aware students.

We recognize a second language's role in open-mindedness and interdependence with other people, the world in which we live, and in which all students benefit. Attaining more than one language and maintaining students' home language nurture personal growth and improves communication skills.

The Sawyer Road community strives to develop independent thinking and expression with proficiency and confidence in at least two languages, providing students with the opportunity to:

- examine
- explore
- predict
- question
- investigate
- reflect
- share

Promoting the IB principle of learning a second language prepares students for an increasingly globally connected world by embracing diversity and developing the learner profile. Sawyer Road believes language builds the framework for transdisciplinary thinking, communication, and learning at school and in the community. Differentiating instruction strengthens the framework to meet every child's academic needs through authentic learning experiences. Intrinsic learning occurs when students construct

IBelieve. IBecome. IBelong.

A.L. Burruss-Sawyer Road-Marietta Sixth Grade Academy-Marietta Middle-Marietta High



meaningful connections between visual language (viewing and presenting), written language (reading and writing), and oral language (listening and speaking).

Language Diversity and Support for Home Language

Our school is a culturally diverse community. Sawyer Road celebrates the linguistic diversity of our community and promotes the development of proficiency in multiple languages. The English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program provides additional language support for English Learners (ELLs). We recognize the importance of providing equitable access to language instruction and support for all learners, including those who are acquiring English as an additional language. Students are encouraged to continue honing their language skills throughout the academic day, at home, and in their community.

- Our school provides information and resources to parents and caregivers in different languages, and workshops to help them support their children's language learning at home.
- Sawyer Road provides translators for parent-teacher-student conferences to build a bridge between home and school communication.
- We are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment where all languages and cultures are respected and valued.
- Our library provides books and resources in many different languages.
- Newcomers have access to Lexia English and Finish Line for ELLs.
- WELLS program for Level 1 ELL students.

Students:

- Takes every opportunity to learn and provides feedback on their learning
- Shows interest in learning and participates
- Shows respect for teachers and peers
- Takes ownership of their learning and seeks help when needed
- Provides feedback and reflection on language learning
- English Language Learners (ELL) receive targeted support tailored to their individual language proficiency levels and academic needs.
- ELL students are provided with access to language development resources, including language support specialists, language enrichment programs, and culturally responsive teaching practices.

IBelieve. IBecome. IBelong.

A.L. Burruss-Sawyer Road-Marietta Sixth Grade Academy-Marietta Middle-Marietta High



- Has the right to exit language support programs, tutoring or phase requirements when sufficient proficiency has been demonstrated through work, performance and grades.

Teachers:

- Receive ongoing professional development in evidence-based literacy instruction to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to effectively teach language arts.
- Considers the language learning needs of all students when planning activities across all areas of the curriculum
- English and Spanish are both integral components of our language curriculum. Students receive instruction in both languages to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Language proficiency assessments are conducted regularly to monitor students' progress in English and Spanish language acquisition.
- Assessment data is used to inform instructional decisions and provide targeted support for students who may require additional assistance in language development.
- Informs parents of student progress in ESOL as well as in the learning areas.
- Provides opportunities for all students to share the diversity of their experiences.
- Ensures that multicultural perspectives are incorporated in all aspects of the classroom social and learning environments
- Attends relevant professional learning opportunities to support students' language development

Parents:

- Communicates directly with the learning community regarding their child's language development
- Is informed about their child's language development
- Reads and returns forms and notifications from the teachers regarding their child's language learning

IBelieve. IBecome. IBelong.

A.L. Burruss-Sawyer Road-Marietta Sixth Grade Academy-Marietta Middle-Marietta High