



# St. Luke School Language Policy

PYP (Primary Years Programme)

MYP (Middle Years Programme)

Fall 2025

# **St Luke School**

## **International Baccalaureate**

### **MYP And PYP Language Policy**

“When teachers plan learning experiences that enable learners to develop language within meaningful and enjoyable contexts, learners are able to make connections, apply their learning, and transfer their conceptual understanding to new situations. This progressive conceptual development, together with an enjoyment of the process, provides the foundation for lifelong learning.”

*- IB PYP Language Scope and Sequence*

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

Language wraps itself around, in, through, and between everything that we teachers and learners do in the classroom. (Ritchhart 2002: 141)

The need to communicate is instinctive. The development of language is fundamental to the need to communicate; it supports and enhances our thinking and understanding. This includes the ability to express oneself (communicate) through speaking, reading, writing, drawing, acting, etc. This also includes communication across different languages, including those of science, math, and the arts. Language is essential to the construction of meaning and connects all of our curriculum elements, and ultimately supports the mission of our school. As communicators, St. Luke students will embody the IB Learner Profile attributes and recognize their global responsibility to create a more peaceful world.

#### **SCHOOL LANGUAGE PROFILE**

##### Language of Instruction

The primary language of instruction for St. Luke School is English. Through schoolwide direct instruction, students develop fluency and literacy skills for effective communication.

#### **PYP LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION**

Language is integrated throughout the PYP Program of Inquiry. Higher-level thinking, key concept questions, and extended research all lend themselves to having a strong vocabulary and language presence within the unit planners. Literature selections, both in read-alouds and guided reading, are chosen to build understanding of the concepts outlined in the unit planners. We follow national, state, and Archdiocesan standards for unit planning.

There are weekly rotations of integrated specialist lessons throughout the PYP. This includes the language of visual art, music, Spanish, library, environmental science, and PE (movement). Specialist teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to incorporate their specific areas of knowledge and encourage connections with the POI planners.

### **MYP LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

We believe that literacy instruction should connect to our units of inquiry, instilling an intrinsic love of literacy by using balanced literacy, authentic assessment, and differentiated instruction tailored to each learner, thus building lifelong readers and writers. Through inquiry, teachers provide students with opportunities to use language in many different formats, including debate, role-play, and art, as well as the traditional teaching of language, both embedded in the units of inquiry and as stand-alone subjects. We follow the national and state standards for language and literature in unit planning. Language instruction allows students to make connections within and across all subject areas, and is facilitated by key and related concepts and global contexts.

In order to provide students with an authentic and diverse language and literature learning experience, PYP and MYP teachers will:

- Support language in the classroom through various literacy activities, including guided reading, guided writing (mini-lessons), writing in content, classroom libraries, visuals, instructional vocabulary, individual word lists, daily read-alouds, and opportunities for students to use language during presentations and collaboration.
- Facilitate reading in all subjects
- Provide cross-curricular connections between texts when available
- Utilize a variety of texts and media, including global works and perspectives
- Flexibly group students based on interest, ability, and data
- Use formative assessments to drive instruction
- Design reading/writing instruction with authentic summative assessments
- Participate in NWEA MAP testing
- Participate (K-6) in the Acadience literacy skills assessment
- Participate in the (K-2) dyslexia screener
- Provide opportunities for students to take action within the larger community
- Provide opportunities to increase intercultural awareness through language instruction
- Provide access to a range of fiction, nonfiction, and research materials in the school library

### **LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

St. Luke School recognizes the importance of becoming proficient in a language other than the language of instruction. Being aware and knowledgeable about other cultures is essential for preparing students to be global citizens.

St. Luke School offers Spanish for all students ages three and above. MYP students have 50 hours of Spanish instruction annually.

St. Luke is committed to bolstering our library offering of print texts in Spanish.

## **HOME LANGUAGE**

As a learning community that builds a positive culture of language learning, we strive to promote the maintenance and development of home languages. Below are resources for supporting students at home if English is not the primary language spoken. These are posted on the school's library webpage and shared annually with families through school communications.

### Language learning apps and websites

- [Duolingo](#): Offers free, bite-sized lessons for learning over 30 languages through reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises.
- [italki](#): Connects learners with native speakers for personalized, affordable lessons and practice.
- [BBC Languages](#): Provides a wide range of text, audio, and video resources in various languages, with links to external resources as well.
- [Live Lingua Project](#): A free archive of resources from the US Peace Corps and Defense Language Institute, including audio files, study guides, and textbooks for over 130 languages.
- [Learning Japanese](#): Online portal for learning Japanese
- [International Digital Children's Library](#): A Range of books read in a variety of languages, and is categorized by age groups, length of book, and fiction or non-fiction

### Educational games and activities

- [ABCya!](#): Features educational games designed to build language, math, and reading skills for children, created by certified teachers.
- [Colorín Colorado](#): A bilingual site for educators and families with resources for English language learners.

### Audio and video resources

- [Audible](#): Offers stories in multiple languages that can be accessed on a computer, phone, or tablet.
- [Story Online](#): Online Ebooks with audio in English
- [World Stories](#): Stories available in many languages
- [Spanish Playground](#): Website with a range of ways to hear the Spanish language

- [Eduscapes Audio Stories](#): Audio stories read in multiple languages for a range of ages

Support and research for families

- [Bilingualism Matters](#): A network that makes research on bilingualism accessible to families and communities.
- [Speak Your Language](#): Offers resources and creative ideas for practicing the home language, along with research-based information on the benefits of bilingualism.
- [MomsRising.org](#): Provides resources for families raising bilingual children.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

St. Luke School is committed to ongoing professional development in language instruction and differentiated practices to meet diverse learner language needs. Teachers are provided opportunities to attend workshops focused on language development and instruction.

### **COMMUNICATION AND REVIEW**

This Language Policy is reviewed annually by the school faculty, staff, and administration, and communicated to the school community by inclusion in the Family Handbook.