

Lake Forest Hills Elementary

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Language Policy | 2025-2026

School Language Philosophy

Lake Forest Hills believes all teachers are language teachers and that our entire learning community—including parents, faculty, and students—supports intercultural understanding. Learning additional languages helps students embrace cultural diversity and new perspectives. We are committed to developing our students' academic language skills through listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy.

School Language Practices

- Classroom Instruction
Most instruction is in English, supporting listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy through units of inquiry and stand-alone lessons.
- Spanish Instruction
Students in K-5 receive Spanish instruction twice weekly for 45 minutes. Spanish teachers integrate transdisciplinary units of inquiry, supporting language development in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy.
- Assessment
Language development is assessed through various tools and reported in written reports, conferences, and portfolios.
- Equity of Access
All students complete a Home Language Survey upon enrollment. Students with a primary language other than English are screened with the WIDA screener to determine ESOL eligibility. LFH encourages continued use of mother tongue and monitors needs for mother tongue support, acquiring resources as necessary.

Professional Development

Professional development is provided through RCSS, our Instructional Specialist, collaborative planning, meetings, and IB PYP training. Faculty attend IB workshops (e.g., *The Role of Language, Inquiry and the Additional Language Teacher*). Professional development needs are continually assessed and addressed.

Classroom and media center resources are reviewed regularly. Funding sources (media center budget, Title I, PTO, private donations) support acquiring additional and culturally diverse materials. Technology and multimedia resources are available school-wide. Additional resources support faculty professional development on IB PYP.