Language Policy

Jefferson School Mission Statement:

The mission of our school is to provide all scholars with a high-quality education that is rigorous and relevant, that tasks scholars to use high order thinking skills and apply their learning to real-life situations. We seek to create a safe and caring learning community that promotes agency in learning and social emotional growth that achieves equity for all scholars. We ensure that each scholar is a successful learner, by challenging and supporting every scholar to thrive as a global citizen, achieve academic excellence, and embrace the diversity of our community.

Jefferson School's Language Philosophy:

In alignment with our site mission, at Jefferson we believe that language development is integral to the development of our scholars and that developing as effective and confident communicators will support them as active and engaged global citizens. We are committed to supporting all scholars as they learn language, learn about language, and learn through language.

"The Primary Years Programme (PYP) beliefs and values about language are embedded implicitly throughout the learner profile and explicitly through the attribute of "communicator", as well as in the IB's approaches to learning. Through an IB education, PYP learning communities use language to build a better and more peaceful world."

Jefferson School's Language Profile:

Diversity of language needs in the PYP:

- English is the language of instruction used at Jefferson. Through Parent Square, our school communication is provided in multiple languages and our flyers are distributed in English and Spanish and can be translated by request into other languages represented in our community.

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- Natomas Unified School District is located in a culturally diverse community in Sacramento, California. We have twenty-six languages spoken by students at our school and in the surrounding community. Fifty-six percent of our students are considered socio-economically disadvantaged.

Other language needs of the community:

- Students who have identified themselves as English as a Second Language are required to receive 30 minutes of English Language Development (ELD) each day in accordance with California Education Code.

Language Instruction

Classroom instruction:

English is the language of instruction at Jefferson. Our faculty teams will use the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts to plan and facilitate instruction that supports literacy development through reading, writing and oral language instruction. These literacy skills will be embedded daily in the learning and teaching practices of our campus community and clearly identified and outlined within our units of inquiry.

English Language Development Instruction:

Jefferson School, in alignment with the policy outlined by the Natomas Unified School District, provides English Language Development for students who are designated as English Learners (or Dual Language Learners). Instructional support is provided to help students both learn the English language and to learn other academic content while still learning English. Designated ELD instruction is provided daily during our “What I Need” (WIN) time for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Using information from parent answers to the Home Language Survey on student enrollment forms, some students are eligible to take the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). When a student passes the ELPAC at higher rates, he/she can be reclassified as “Fluent-English Proficient” and will at that time no longer receive English Language Development classes.

World Language Instruction:

At Jefferson, German is designated as our World Language for the PYP. At least 30 minutes of German language acquisition will be provided for scholars from transitional kindergarten through sixth grade. Our World Language teacher for the PYP will use the IB PYP Language Scope and Sequence document to organize and plan instructional opportunities that support language acquisition through Oral Language, Visual Language and Written Language in German. Our PYP world language teacher will work in collaboration with the PYP Coordinator and grade level teams to ensure that language acquisition is aligned throughout our program of inquiry. There

will be intentionality to incorporate the experiences and cultural values of our native German speakers into the learning and teaching of our world language at Jefferson.

Heritage Language Support:

Scholars and families will have the opportunity to share with our school community about the languages that they speak through our Home Language Survey. The heritage languages represented within our learning community will be supported by:

- Opportunities to embed home language into instruction
- Highlighting and celebrating the home cultures and customs of scholars
- Documents translated into home language
- Bilingual staff members (communicate, translate, teach)
- Resources in the library
- Home language texts
- Language Link (translation through our district)
- Partnering with families and inviting them into the school community to share their language

Language Development Supports and Tools:

- District ELD TOSA
- Jefferson ELD Paraprofessional (Part Time)
- Google Translate
- Curriculum (Go Math, Twig, Studies Weekly, and Wonders)
- Parent Square
- Providing scaffolds (sentence frames, graphic organizers, thinking maps)
- Use of visual support and modeling
- Leveled readers
- WIN groups
- QTEL strategies (EL focus)
- GLAD strategies
- Digital language platforms (Language Link)

Process to Review and Update Language Policy Roles and Responsibilities:

- Onboarding: At the beginning of every academic year we will review the policy with the entire faculty to provide opportunities to revise and update policies to include the voices of all stakeholders.
- Pedagogical Leadership Team: The pedagogical leadership team will review and edit the policy accordingly to update and ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined. This will reflect the dynamic growth of our school community.
- Faculty: We are committed to reviewing and implementing our language policy throughout our collaboration, planning, learning, and teaching.

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- Head of School: The head of school in partnership with the pedagogical leadership team will be responsible for ensuring that our language policy is a living document that informs our practices on our campus.

Professional Development and Teacher Certification:

- All staff are required to obtain their English Learner Authorization from the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing
- District ELD Professional Development
- Sacramento County Office of Education Induction program and professional development opportunities

Policy Review:

This policy will be shared on our school website for the learning community and will be reviewed and revised at least annually with all stakeholders. We have committed to aligning our policies at Jefferson to the philosophy of the IB Primary Years Programme and will work collaboratively with our school community to develop a foundation of support for our scholars as they learn and grow.

IB Publications used to inform this policy:

Information included in this document was inspired from the IB guides and supporting resources.

Primary Years Programme, Learning and Teaching, International Baccalaureate Organization, 2019

Student Language Portraits, International Baccalaureate Organization, 2020

Learning Stories, International Baccalaureate Organization

Translanguaging, International Baccalaureate Organization, 2020

Date of Last Review - March 5, 2026

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