



Bob Lanier Middle School

A Vanguard Magnet and International Baccalaureate World School

Language Policy

Language Philosophy

Culture 3:4 *The school monitors and evaluates the impact of the academic integrity policy to ensure that it regularly informs learning and teaching across the curriculum and that the school's procedures are transparent, fair and consistent.*

Culture 4:1 *The school implements and reviews a language policy that is aligned with IB language policy guidelines.*

Culture 4:2 *The school describes in its language policy the way that the school recognizes multilingualism as a fact, a right and a resource for learning.*

Culture 4:4 *The school clearly describes in its language policy the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community and what constitutes good practice within the school context.*

We believe that language is the cornerstone to all learning. Students and staff are encouraged to acquire and develop language skills in order to grow personally, socially, and professionally. Through language we foster a solution-oriented learning community where all members are valued, and growth is maximized. Our approach to language is grounded in the belief that language is critical for social, academic, and global development.

The Lanier Middle School MYP programme recognizes that language is central to learning as it develops critical thinking, intercultural awareness, and global citizenship. (From Language and Learning in IB programmes, 2014) Language study, including English, modern languages, and native languages, reinforces cultural identity, enhances personal growth, and promotes effective communication.

Accordingly, educators at Lanier Middle School will:

- Support the development of student language skills
- Facilitate proficiency in English and the pursuit of competency
- Create a community that demonstrates openness to multiculturalism and global awareness. The achievement of these goals will ensure the refinement of language skills and knowledge and promote student engagement in the global community.

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Programs Offered

All Lanier Middle School students will complete coursework in both Language and Literature as well as a Language Acquisition course other than English. For many students this may be a continued study of the students' native language. The language of instruction at Lanier Middle School is English. Language and Literature courses are academically rigorous and equip students with linguistic, analytical, and communicative skills that are used in an interdisciplinary manner across all other subject groups. The district scope and sequence, aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills are aligned with the MYP Language and Literature aims and objectives from the subject guide. Lanier Middle School offers Spanish, French, and Mandarin Chinese as a language acquisition course.

Approaches to Teaching 5:4 Teachers support language development with consideration for the language profiles of students.

Working Language	English
Language of Instruction	English
Response Language	English
Language Courses	Spanish 6
	Spanish 7
	Spanish for Native Speakers
	Spanish 8
	Spanish I
	Spanish for Native Speakers
	French 6
	French 7
	French I
	Mandarin Chinese 6
	Mandarin Chinese 7
	Mandarin Chinese I

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Continued growth in the native language is essential for student language development. Many students who qualify as LEP (Limited English Proficiency) were in the Bilingual Program as primary students. These students had the opportunity to master both their native language and English as instructional delivery and assessments were delivered in both languages throughout their primary educational careers.

Students who did not participate in the Bilingual Program, but were identified as LEP, would have participated in English as a Second Language Program. This program submerges students academically in the English classrooms with linguistic support and accommodations for support until they are proficient in English.

Regardless of LEP status, all students are exposed to multilingualism in both language development as well as the development of intercultural awareness. For those whose native language is Spanish, we offer a Spanish for Spanish Speakers course where, among other aspects, students use multilingualism as a resource to extend learning of their native language. In addition, since all students are required to take a Spanish course, those whose native language is English or a language other than Spanish also use their native language as a resource for learning Spanish.

Strategies to Support Students

Culture 4:3 The school identifies in its language policy a variety of physical and virtual resources used to facilitate language development.

All teachers at Lanier Middle School are responsible for the language needs of all students. The following support will be offered for our students who are not receiving instruction in the native language by:

- All Language and Literature teachers will be ESL Certified
- Providing sheltered instruction
 - “Sheltered instruction provides assistance to learning in the form of visuals, modified texts and assignments, and attention to their linguistics needs.” (Echevarria & Graves, 2011)
 - All staff who teach core and enrichment areas will receive training in Sheltered Instruction Utilizing the ELPS (English Language Proficiency Standards)

Linguistic accommodations will be provided for:

- Students scoring beginning or intermediate on the previous administration of TELPAS composite scores Students who did not make one year's growth on TELPAS.
- Students who are struggling academically.

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- Students performing “beginning” or “intermediate” on TELPAS or are in their first 3 years at a US school are placed in reading intervention courses.

Strategies to Support Teachers

All teachers at Lanier Middle School are responsible for the language needs of all students. The following support will be offered for our teachers who instruct students who are not receiving instruction in their native language by:

- Train and update teachers on the implementation of ELPS
- Professional development on best practices and strategies for literacy instruction
- Train and support teachers on implementing differentiated instruction to support LEP students
- Annual overview of TELPAS with information pertaining to the collection of authentic writing samples that will be used for the writing domain

Language Instruction

Instructional Strategies and Practices: The primary language of instruction is English. Teachers support the development and acquisition of oral and written language through the following strategies, among others:

1. Language taught through the curriculum
2. Differentiated instruction
3. Multi-sensory stimulus
4. Eliciting prior knowledge
5. Making connections
6. Modeling
7. Cooperative learning
8. Trans-disciplinary skills (reading, speaking, writing, and listening)

Parental Support: Parents are included in the language development of their children through the following practices and resources, among others:

- Reading response and reading logs
- Newsletters or flyers distributed to the parents in various languages spoken on campus
- Bilingual Parent Liaison
- Campus Literacy Night
- Parent Volunteers

Assessment: Student language development is assessed based on the district guidelines and campus assessment policy.

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Professional Development:

- International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme category training
- Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)
- Cultural Diversity
- Language integration training

Communicating the policy:

- Campus website
- Letters
- Student/parent handbook
- Staff handbook
- Family events

This policy has been created using IB support materials, district data, and input from all stakeholders and shall be reviewed by all stakeholders each year to ensure continued alignment with IB and local district expectations. Newly hired teachers will be trained on language policies and practices throughout the first semester of their teaching contract. Parents and students shall be made aware of this policy through normal communication channels at the beginning of each semester. This policy is communicated to staff and faculty in regular PLC meetings and team meetings.

Resources

Springwoods Village Middle School Language Policy. Accessed May 11, 2023, from <https://www.springisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=15650&dataid=28368&FileName=SVMS%20Language%20Policy%202022-2023.pdf>

Travis Science Academy IB Language Policy. Accessed May 12, 2023, from <https://4.files.edl.io/f08f/08/06/20/040307-0e32d1ac-ba04-448a-9dc9-99c75c580f0e.pdf>

Lanier Middle School Language Policy

Language policy is reviewed yearly with staff, leadership, and families.

*Updated May 2026 by Eileen Bell, IB MYP Programme Coordinator

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