



TRINITY
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL

IB MYP Language Policy

Philosophy

Since language is the key to all learning, all teachers at Trinity Catholic School have a role in language instruction. Language is the connective element across all classes, cultures, and customs. We aim to develop effective, global communicators through an in-depth study of English as the primary language, as well as instruction in additional languages.

Students use language as the vehicle to explore course content through the six IB Global Contexts, and to make connections that lead to becoming life-long learners who exhibit and grow in the ten Learner Profile traits.

In each subject area, teachers require students to use English at the highest level of their proficiency. Our classrooms are designed to provide a rich language environment that will provide students with the opportunity to:

- Have frequent and consistent opportunities to listen, read, write, view and present in all subject areas
- Learn and master subject vocabulary to effectively communicate their knowledge
- Be exposed to a broad range of literature and literary genres that reflect a variety of cultures, perspectives, and historical periods
- Develop critical literacy by focusing on the Approaches to Learning skills at increasing levels of complexity throughout the MYP years.

Support for English Language Learners

All new students answer a Family Language Question on their application. Based upon the results of this question, we will make the family aware of community programs that can support continued development of their child's mother tongue. Preservation of a student's native language and culture is respected in order to support the student's family relationships, community relationships and to promote diversity in our program, providing our school community with a richer global awareness.

Students have access to resources in other languages. The school media center contains books and periodicals in students' mother tongue. The online subscription to the *Britannica Encyclopedia* has the ability to translate all articles into any other language. The *Renaissance STAR Reading* program allows our Spanish speaking students to take reading assessments in Spanish and English. Teachers are able to utilize this tool to help determine if a gap in learning is due to a language barrier or learning ability. Students are encouraged to use the online reading resource, *Epic. Epic*

provides online reading in both English and Spanish for students up to age twelve. Trinity has been enriched by the presence of students who are non-native English speakers. Accommodations are made in the classroom to ensure a smooth transition to an English speaking environment, to honor the mother tongue, and to promote educational success. We use an inclusion approach to instruction. Students with learning differences Teachers utilize *Google Classroom* to provide access to notes, powerpoints, study tools, and other resources.

We encourage families to utilize tutors to work with the students during school hours. Examples of English Language Learner resources are offered by the Florida Department of Education:

<https://www.fldoe.org/em-response/resources-families.shtml>

Second Language Acquisition

The study of a second language is essential for the cultivation of intercultural awareness and the student's identity as a member of local, national, and global communities.

Trinity Catholic School offers instruction in Spanish at the Kindergarten through 4th grades. In 5th grade, students will continue their study of a second language with one semester of Spanish instruction and one semester of Latin instruction. Once in 6th grade, students choose either Spanish or Latin instruction for the duration of the MYP. Year 3/8th grade students have the opportunity to earn high school credit for Spanish I or Latin I.

Professional Development

Currently, two of our IB MYP teachers have ESOL endorsements. Additionally, Trinity provides teacher training on instructional strategies for working with ELL students. We also offer teachers the opportunity to attend outside professional development.

The IB Coordinator works with teachers and administrators to ensure that the Language Policy is implemented according to its intent. The Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.