MGMS Mission

Mount Garfield Middle School fosters curiosity,belonging, and global citizenship by integrating critical thinking across subjects and providing rigorous opportunities anchored in high expectations for learning and behavior.

MGMS Vision

Gators learn and rise to the challenge with integrity.

Language Philosophy

At Mount Garfield Middle School, we believe learning languages is key to becoming well-rounded and globally aware. We aim to implement language and literacy instruction using a whole-school approach that is guided by researched-based strategies. We believe good practices include scaffolded instruction that accommodates diverse language backgrounds, regular assessments to monitor language development, and a curriculum that integrates language and culture. Teachers employ the IB Learner Profile, course objectives, and Approaches to Teaching and Learning (including concept based learning, inquiry, collaboration, and communication skills) across all subject areas. All teachers share the responsibility of language instruction through the use of ongoing strategies and interventions such as guided reading from curriculum and Newsela, vocabulary sheltering practices like word walls and graphic organizers, prescribed Lexia minutes, and DBQs. We emphasize ongoing professional development for teachers to enhance their skills in language instruction and intercultural understanding.

Additionally we aim to support language acquisition and multilingualism among our students. We believe students gain deeper intercultural insights when they engage in a multilingual world. Our language acquisition program aims to enrich communication, literacy and 21st-century skills. However, we recognize that language acquisition is a continuous process where each student progresses at their own pace across different disciplines. Furthermore, we are committed to building a culture of multilingualism by celebrating our language diversity through school initiatives.

School Language Profile

Language of Instruction: The primary language of instruction at Mount Garfield Middle School is English. Our curriculum adheres to State of Colorado standards and promotes literacy development through direct instruction. English literacy is assessed through NWEA scores to determine readiness for additional language acquisition classes.

Additional Languages: MGMS aims to develop our student's linguistic abilities by offering a progression of language classes. Students can begin with Introduction to Language in the 6th-grade, which focuses on derivatives from ancient languages to support word meaning and overall language comprehension. Spanish acquisition instruction is available for 7th and

8th-grade students who demonstrate proficiency in their mother tongue. These classes develop students' language skills through reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities while deepening their understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. The curriculum fosters communication, critical thinking, and global awareness to support lifelong language learning.

English Language Learner (ELL)/Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education: Language acquisition for our English Language Learners focuses on providing tools to access language & to participate successfully in core classes. We provide a dedicated, systematic English Language Development block, instruction in English at grade-level proficiency, and meaningful access to grade-level academic content. All teachers provide scaffolded support to multilingual students in content areas to ensure their success across the curriculum. We encourage teachers who can communicate in more than one language, especially Spanish, to take advantage of opportunities to teach and reinforce learning in that language.

Support for Mother Tongues

We recognize the importance of students' mother tongues and encourage families to maintain and develop their native languages at home.This strengthens the student's language skills while appreciating the value of their culture. When students struggle in their native language, we provide additional support structures when possible, particularly if it impacts their ability to succeed in the language of instruction.

Intervention programs for students needing additional help with English literacy include Read 180, Lexia PowerUp Literacy and Language Live. Each program is aimed at supporting struggling readers and helping them reach grade-level proficiency with personalized learning experiences. Courses for native Spanish speakers are offered to refine their academic understanding of the language and culture while supporting the development of their mother tongue.

Inclusion and Equity of Access

Mount Garfield Middle School is committed to ensuring equal access for all learners, regardless of their language background or proficiency. We provide resources such as ELL/CLD programs, WIDA Access Assessments and NWEA scores to place students in suitable language courses. MGMS supports teachers in delivering effective language instruction through training offered by our district, IB, and in-house programs.

Rights and Responsibilities of the School Community

All students have the right to quality language instruction, access to resources, and a respectful environment. This extends to participation in all school activities and programs, regardless of language proficiency.

Teachers and staff must create an inclusive environment, providing necessary resources and support. The community as a whole should promote respect and understanding of diverse languages and cultures, recognizing the value of bilingualism and multilingualism.

Review Process

This Language Policy is a living document, reviewed annually by the school instructional leadership team (ILT). It is informed by IB guidelines, stakeholder feedback, and evaluation of current practices. The policy will be accessible to the school community both physically and digitally.