



**Estrella Mountain Elementary & IB Academy K-8
IB PYP and MYP Language Policy
2018-2019**

Philosophy

EMES & the IB Academy recognizes that language is fundamental to all learning because it permeates the entire curriculum and is a necessary life skill. Therefore, throughout the curriculum we foster the development of the language of instruction (English), the world language of Spanish and the mother tongue (Polish, German, and Spanish).

Language of Instruction

English is the language of instruction at EMES and the IB Academy. The citizens of Arizona passed a law making Arizona an English-only state (A.R.S. 15-752). This makes every teacher a language teacher, which supports the IB philosophy. Integrating language into every aspect of the curriculum is our goal. We recognize that through language instruction we are teaching students the importance of culture, diversity and sensitivity towards others, which in turn, enhances their personal growth, cognitive development, and facilitates international understanding. Through language teaching we also emphasize the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting.

English Language Development

Students who have a mother tongue other than English are identified upon initial school registration through a language survey (PHLOTE). If the parent indicates a home language other than English, the student is administered a test (AZELLA) to determine their English language proficiency. If the AZELLA (Arizona English Language Learner Assessment) finds a student less than proficient, the State Superintendent of Schools mandates that the students receive direct English language instruction. This can be accomplished through an Individualized Language Learning Program (ILLP's) that teachers are required to follow, the English Language Proficiency Standards are used to address the needs of the English Language Learner. Progress Reports are required per trimester to monitor student progress and keep parents updated as to their child's language proficiency.

World Language Instruction

PYP

The entire PYP student population (K-5) will take Spanish for at least one session per week. The goal of the instruction is to teach Spanish for everyday use. The students are learning to speak, read and write in Spanish. Where possible, the Spanish teacher will support the IB units.

MYP

The entire MYP student population (6-8) will take Spanish for one-hour session twice per week. The goal of the instruction is to teach Spanish for everyday use. The students are learning to speak, read and write in Spanish. The Spanish teacher will implement the IB units.

Special Education

Inclusive practices are in place for all students including students with Individual Educational Plans. Individual language needs and services are identified in student's IEP.

Language Assessment

Our World Language of Spanish will be assessed based on participation, speaking, reading and writing. PYP students will be assessed with a participation grade. MYP will be assessed using the IB rubric which is converted to a letter grade on their report card for the required grading and reporting of the district.

Professional Development

The main responsibility for the professional language development of staff members lies with each individual. Every Highly Qualified Teacher on Campus is SEI (Structured English Immersion) endorsed per state law. The PYP and MYP coordinator's responsibility is to ensure that staff is made aware of other professional development opportunities, and evaluate and acquire suitable professional development resources. A variety of resources provide teachers with current research and best practices in language learning. Teacher university work, staff book studies, online resources and District sponsored workshops are a few of the ways that EMES staff members keep themselves informed and up-to-date.

Resources

Currently our school librarian is incorporating multilingual books and media that are accessible to all students and staff. Our library includes a "world language" section that supports our mother tongues. Our Parent Teacher Organization is aware of our need to expand these resources and have planned to expand our available resources by allocating money for expansion of our world language books. In addition to our school library, the staff has access to guided reading collections for classroom instruction. Although, these resources are all in English, they are culturally and globally diverse. We also have access to a website through a district license which is Reading A-Z. Reading A-Z offers printable books in Spanish, French and German. An additional resource program is Culture Club, which includes multi-cultural presentations on a monthly basis. Overall, we have many resources that are available to support our students and staff. Our staff collaboratively makes decisions on what resources to purchase based on student need and instruction.

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