



Pine View Middle School Language Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of a language policy is to outline:

- The structure for language learning at Pine View Middle School (PVMS)
- The support for students and families whose mother tongue is not English
- Support for mother tongues
- The belief that all teachers are language teachers

Definitions:

- **Mother-Tongue:** The language the student uses at home and/or outside of the classroom/school environment. This term encompasses other terms including: first language, home language, preferred language, native language and heritage language.
- **Language and Literature:** Language and Literature is one of the eight subject areas taught in the MYP. It is the class formerly known as English/Language Arts.
- **Language Acquisition:** Language Acquisition is one of the eight subject areas taught in the MYP. It is the class formerly known as foreign/world languages.

Language Curriculum in the Middle Years Programme (MYP):

- **Language and Literature:** All students take Language and Literature, regardless of their mother-tongue, as all students are learning and deepening their understanding of English. Students learn the Florida Standards in Language and Literature through the conceptual framework of the Middle Years Programme.
- **Language Acquisition:** PVMS offers two language acquisition options: Spanish (face to face) and American Sign Language (online). Students choose which language they would like to study as incoming Year One students and continue on that course of study throughout their time in the Middle Years Programme. Upon successful completion of their language acquisition classes at PVMS, students will earn high school foreign/world language credit(s). Land O' Lakes High School, one of the high schools in our feeder pattern, offers Spanish as the world language in their Diploma Programme and American Sign Language (ASL) to all students as a language option.
- **Accelerated Literacy:** Accelerated Literacy is a district required course for students who have not met the state requirements in reading as measured by the Florida Standards Assessment. Students may be required to take Accelerated Literacy in place of a Language Acquisition class.

Philosophy:

- All teachers are language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication
- All students, with the exception of when a state mandate supersedes the Middle Years Programme (MYP), will receive instruction in the eight subject areas of the MYP.
- Parents have the opportunity to provide input into their children's language development.

Multilingual communication in the Pine View Middle community:

- PVMS employs a bilingual Instructional Assistant to assist with translating, interpreting and adjusting (if applicable) to the culture of the community
- The media center includes materials to support continued use of the mother tongue as well as offering materials with a wide range of cultural influences
- PVMS supports in-school, local, and global initiatives that showcase our many world languages/cultures (i.e. school wide communications and service projects with a global impact).
- In addition to English, languages spoken by our students, families and staff include the following:
 - American Sign Language
 - Cantonese
 - Chinese
 - Creole
 - Finnish
 - French
 - German
 - Hindi
 - Malayalam
 - Mandarin Chinese
 - Polish
 - Russian
 - Spanish
 - Turkish
 - Vietnamese

Placement of students and progress monitoring:

- Students take a home language survey upon registering at a Pasco County school
- If a student has a mother-tongue other than English, he or she will take the ACCESS test to determine his or her needs
- All English Language Learners (ELL) take the state mandated ACCESS test on a yearly basis to determine progress and continued need for services.

Classroom supports:

- Teachers who teach ELL students must have a pre-determined number of coursework hours in strategies to assist with the acquisition of the mother-tongue
- Teachers of Language and Literature take 300 hours of ELL coursework
- Teachers of all other subjects take 60 hours of ELL coursework
- The Instructional Assistant at PVMS consistently works with teachers with materials support as well as translation and small group instruction
- Technology infused into the classroom to bridge the gap between the language of instruction and the mother-tongue
- MIND/Digital resources in the media center, which partner with multiple other media centers in our district

References:

- MYP From Principles to Practice (occ.ibo.org)
- MYP: Guidelines for developing a school language policy (occ.ibo.org)
- Wooster High School and Vaughn Middle School IB Language Policy
<http://www.woostercolts.com/pdf/LANGUAGEPOLICY.pdf>
- Barbara Bush Middle School and Ranchview High School Partnership Language Policy
http://bush.cfbisd.edu/files/FRAFD/d63bbd993b04968f3745a49013852ec4/BBMS_RHS_MYP_Language_Policy.pdf
- MacArthur Middle School/Meade High School IB MYP Partnership Language Policy
<http://www.macmiddle.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Meade-Partnership-Language-Policy.pdf>