



MYP Language Policy

IB Standard B1.5d:

- The school has developed and implements an academic honesty policy that is consistent with IB expectations

Introduction

International Baccalaureate (IB) World schools are required to create a written Language Policy. The purpose of this document is to inform teaching and learning in the classroom, to guide curriculum and to involve families in our goal to educate children in an internationally-minded environment. This document outlines the philosophy and practice of language instruction at Nolan Richardson Middle School and demonstrates how NRMS supports students' acquisition of our language of instruction (English) and our World Language (Spanish). It also shows how NRMS supports continued use of a student's mother tongue (the language spoken at home).

Philosophy:

- All teachers are language teachers.
- Language is a primary means of learning and communicating.
- Language acquisition is to be promoted as a partnership between all members of our community including parents, students, teachers and staff.
- Mother tongue languages help form cultural and personal identity and should be respected.
- The shared experience of learning language creates cohesion among students from diverse backgrounds and promotes international-mindedness.
- Learning world languages is an integral part of becoming a global citizen.

Language Profile:

In the 2017-2018 school year, NRMS has a population of approximately 700 students. More than 30 have a mother tongue other than English. Languages spoken by students at school include Spanish, Cantonese (Chinese), Ibo/Igbo and Korean.

Aims:

All NRMS teachers, staff, parents and students work to:

- Enable students to learn and use language confidently in a variety of contexts.
- Increase students' powers of written and oral communication through intentional assessment.
- Promote student understanding and enjoyment of literature.
- Allow students to explore different perspectives through language.
- Encourage students to have fun and express themselves through language.

Support of Mother Tongue Languages

- District bulletins, websites and other publications are available in Spanish.
- Building communications are translated in-house into Spanish, our most common mother tongue aside from English.
- The library includes materials that support continued use of the mother tongue.

Support of the Language of Instruction

English is the Language of Instruction at NRMS.

NRMS will support students with Limited English Proficiency in language acquisition in the following ways:

- NRMS will support all students in language acquisition in the following ways:
- Implementing reading and writing strategies across the curriculum.
- Selecting and providing access to literature from a variety of cultural backgrounds from all over the world.
- Providing multiple opportunities at all levels of instruction for students to write in a variety of genres.
- Allowing students ample choice in their reading materials and encouraging reading for enjoyment.

- Providing differentiated instruction for students with special needs, including students with learning disabilities and students who are academically gifted and talented through the Humanities courses offered.
- Assessing students formally and informally in the classroom using exit slips, writing prompts, reading comprehension checks, reading skills assessments, speeches, and essays.
- Participating in the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for Reading each year.

Support of Nolan Richardson Middle School's Adopted Second Language

NRMS's chosen second language is Spanish

- All students receive at least 50 hours of instruction in Spanish per the IB requirements for the MYP. All students at NRMS receive 2 or 3 45-minute classes of Spanish per week and are eligible to receive high school credit for their work.
- All Spanish instruction is taught by a Highly Qualified teacher and assessed according to MYP Objectives and Criteria.

Ongoing Review of the Language Policy

This policy will be formally reviewed yearly by NRMS staff and revised as needed to adapt to changing best practices and the needs of our learning community. Revised September 2017

This policy is available to the community through the NRMS website, and the school leadership team welcomes comments and recommendations at any time.