



International School at Kokomo High School Language Policy



School Language Philosophy

The International School at Kokomo High School recognizes that language is central to learning, and all teachers are teachers of language. To that end, in conjunction with our school district, Kokomo High School teachers participate in ongoing staff development that includes language instructional strategies.

Language Profile

Languages of teaching and learning in the International School at Kokomo High School include English and Spanish. Languages of communication in the school and community include English Spanish and other languages.

Language and Literature

Language and Literature is defined as English at The International School at Kokomo High School. We recognize that English is not the mother tongue of some of our students; we strive for all students to acquire academic proficiency in English.

The language of communication with our families and communities is English, yet we also translate communication materials into the home language of our families, including Spanish.

All students study Language and Literature each school day. Within Language and Literature instruction, the goal is for all students to acquire proficiency in the four modalities: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Language Acquisition

Language B instruction supports the MYP Intercultural awareness and the IB Learner Profile. Learning an additional language is essential for students to understand other cultures and develop a mindset that values multilingualism and international mindedness. All Language Acquisition classes meet every school day all year long. We offer Spanish as our Language Acquisition option.

Within Language Acquisition instruction, the goal is for all students to develop proficiency in the four modalities: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

English Learners (EL)

The language of instruction at our schools is English, with the exception of Language Acquisition classes. The EL program exists to provide students with the means to acquire academic proficiency in English.

All EL students participate in the MYP to the fullest extent possible. All subject teachers recognize that learning in a second language is a challenge, so they also focus on building language skills and key vocabulary necessary for successful completion of each course. Students are encouraged to use language of instruction whenever possible. If EL students find it difficult to express in the language of instruction, they may use other resources to understand the other language. Teachers are required to use English as the language of instruction in the classes, with the exception of Language Acquisition classes. They are expected to recognize the potential problems their students might face as EL learners and take appropriate steps as described in their Individual Language plan, to overcome the difficulties such as scaffolding teaching. We recognize that to gain academic proficiency, students may need EL support throughout the Middle Years Program.

Mother Tongue Support

To support students with a mother tongue other than English, we strive to provide bilingual support for classroom learning and for communication with families. Our Media Center includes books written in other languages and we continue to add to these resources. We also access district support for communicating with families and communities in languages other than English. We offer courses for our EL students, including an ENL course and International/Learning Hubs. We continue to investigate other avenues and resources for language support for all of our students.

Equity in access

Students at The International School at Kokomo High School participate in the Middle Years Program to the fullest extent possible. Teachers of EL, special education, and literacy collaborate with subject area teachers to support academic language development in the Middle Years Program subject areas, including Language and Literature. . Additional support classes

may be provided to newcomer English Learners, students with emerging literacy, and students whose Individual Education Plans specify alternative scheduling.

Professional Development

As far as the professional development is concerned, all teachers are expected to follow the latest trends in language teaching

Language Policy Development

The International School at Kokomo High School Language Policy is available to all staff, students, and families on the school's website. This policy will be reviewed and refined as needed basis to reflect our school's development and evolution within the Middle Years Program framework.