



**Kids Community College Southeast IB World School  
Elementary Language Policy  
Spring-Fall 2019 School Year**



**Updated March 2019**

# **Kid's Community College Southeast IB Authorized World School IB- PYP Language Policy**

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## **PHILOSOPHY**

At Kids Community College SE, we believe language is a vital tool for learning, communicating and being an active member of a global society. As communication in the world changes, we have the responsibility for supporting our students to be multilingual learners. Language opens the mind and presents opportunities that will cultivate internationally-minded citizens. We believe language acquisition is best supported by a language-rich environment which includes books, periodicals, environmental print, online resources, and professor and student writing. Professors are role models for using and learning language and can foster a positive attitude toward language and literature. Language is the major connecting element across the curriculum. Therefore the focus is on not only language and literacy, but also on its application across the subject areas and throughout the Transdisciplinary program of inquiry per International Baccalaureate. The English language arts are not perceived as individual content areas, but as one unified subject in which each of the five areas supports the others and enhances thinking and learning. The integration of knowledge, skills and strategies of the English language arts enables students to solve problems and think critically and creatively in all subject areas.

## **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

English is the language of instruction at Kids Community College SE and is the major connecting element across the curriculum. The focus of language and its application across the subject areas and throughout the transdisciplinary program of inquiry (POI). Language provides a vehicle for inquiry. The POI provides an authentic context for learners to develop and use language. Wherever possible, language is taught through the relevant, authentic context of the units of inquiry. The Florida English and Language Arts Standards (based on Common Core standards), as well as the PYP language scope and sequence document identify the major expectations considered essential in language learning. Literature is an integral part of the curriculum. By learning language as well as learning about and through language, an appreciation of the richness of language and a love of literature is nurtured. Books are carefully selected to reinforce the units of inquiry and the development of reading skills, as well as to reflect various cultural aspects. Students learn how to understand, interpret and respond to the ideas, attitudes and feelings expressed in various texts. Books are read for enjoyment and can also be discussed, analyzed, compared and contrasted. Students learn how to understand,

interpret and respond to the ideas, attitudes and feelings expressed in various texts; to think critically about what they read; and to be able to make predictions and inferences based on information that is both explicit and implicit in the text. Language learning at Kids Community College SE extends beyond the classroom. Professors and students both use the media center/library weekly to enrich their language learning as well as learning in other subject areas.

## **READING & WRITING WORKSHOP**

Kids Community College SE uses a Reading Workshop approach to language instruction. The classroom environment is rich in print and literature to equip students with the tools they need to become lifelong readers and writers who can communicate their thoughts. Professors act as facilitators who model writing, reading strategies, listening skills and appropriate speech.

## **ORAL LANGUAGE**

Professors realize students come from different cultures and backgrounds and strive to demonstrate conversational accuracy with sensitivity. Professors value hands-on experiences in order to reinforce primary and secondary language in addition to the classroom. Through oral productions, skits, songs, debates, stories, listening stations, etc. students become enthusiastic and open minded about other cultures. Professors will provide ample opportunities for students to learn unique ways to communicate with each other. Language as a common practice opens doors to a life time of open mindedness and an appreciation of learning. The school encourages the use of other languages in the classroom through labeling and studying about other nationalities.

## **WRITING**

Writing across the curriculum is a significant activity across all grade levels. The writing process involves creating an environment where students can acquire the skills necessary to produce written products for a variety of purposes. The written product can be informative, persuasive, poetic, or in the form of a story or dialogue. When learning to write, students are encouraged to focus at first on meaning rather than accuracy, and to enjoy the writing process. Second Language Instruction is taught from Kindergarten through 5th grade: Students at Kids Community College SE have Spanish once a week. Students in grades K-5 receive language instruction for 50 minutes. All students remain with their homeroom peers for Spanish lesson. Classroom items and different parts of the school are labeled in Spanish and English. With guidance from the Spanish professor, a “word of the week” program has been adopted. Each week there is a school-wide focus on a specific common word and/or polite phrases. These words/phrases are displayed in each classroom and in the school hallway.

## **CULTURE**

Students learn about the people, traditions, music, history, and customs of another country, as well discover what is unique about regions around the world and what we have in common. This leads the students to the appreciation that the world is enriched by its many cultures.

## **MOTHER TONGUE SUPPORT**

The faculty and staff are all accountable for communicating our support of mother tongue languages. Students and parents who speak another language bring an added perspective to learning. We value their views and encourage them to share. We utilize their knowledge as resources and guest speakers. Our library has books in the home languages of many of our students and continues to look for more resources to support both second language acquisition and other mother tongue languages. As the language program continues to develop and more diverse cultures enter our school, we will seek more opportunities to highlight and support other mother tongue languages.

## **SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

Kid's Community College SE has several support services available to help students in their language/language arts development. These include:

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Students who have met the eligibility guidelines to receive English as a Second Language (ESOL) services are supported by the classroom professor. The special education professor and the ESOL professor work hand in hand ensure each student receives appropriate services.

Students who have met the eligibility guidelines to receive Special Education services are supported by the classroom professor and Special Education support staff. The special education professor and the classroom professor work hand in hand to implement the student's IEP. All services are provided with consideration to the least restrictive environment, considering first providing support within the student's general education classroom if appropriate.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED**

Students in grades Kindergarten-5th who have been identified as Gifted receive services from the classroom professor and Special Education/Gifted professor. Professors work closely with students to provide depth, complexity and enrichment within lessons.

## **RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION/SMALL GROUP SERVICES**

Students who need additional support or an early intervention are discussed in RtI (PSLT) meetings. These meetings include classroom professors, administrators, special education professors and intervention support professors. The team works together to develop a plan to help the student become successful by setting goals and monitoring progress towards those goals.

Small group professors work closely with students and classroom professors. They provide supplemental resources, testing, extra support and differentiated instruction to help students be successful in the classroom and reach their learning goals. Small groups closely monitor progress, collect and review data to ensure instruction.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Students have access to a wide range of technology that supports language development. Laptops, cameras, document cameras, webcams, and projectors all help students compose, share and connect ideas. Software includes word processing, presentation, graphic organizing, photo editing and illustration.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Students are assessed in their development of oral language, written language, and visual language including viewing and presenting. While the end product is often assessed as an indicator of growth, the process is also vitally important and informally assessed. Students are given feedback based on both their growth towards individual learning goals and our state standards using a variety of strategies and tools. (See Kids Community College SE Assessment Policy for more detail.)

## **PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

The PYP Committee and Pedagogical Leadership Team accept the responsibility for ensuring the language policy is put into practice. Professors and administrators will communicate language policy to parents. The Leadership Team will regularly evaluate implementation of language policy as evidenced by classroom observations, data feedback and parent/community response. The Kids Community College SE Language Policy will be reviewed every year by the PYP Coordinator and the pedagogical leadership team.

**Resources utilized to create this document** : Guidelines for developing a school language policy, *IBO.org* . *Making the PYP Happen, A curriculum framework, Transdisciplinary Framework*, Cat 1 training materials.