

# Cache La Poudre Middle School

*an IB World School*



## IB-MYP Language Policy

### Philosophy

The PSD Language Policy assists MYP schools in developing students to become strong communicators in a globally connected world. Students are encouraged to communicate in a variety of ways with confidence and creativity. Through language instruction in all content areas, students gain a greater understanding of self-expression, intercultural awareness, different perspectives, and inquiry.

I. The Cache La Poudre (CLPMS) Middle Years Programme believes that all MYP teachers are language teachers with responsibilities for facilitating communication and literacy across all content areas. With that, CLPMS has taken measures to ensure that teaching staff have the appropriate training, tools and support to ensure the fidelity of this policy for years 1, 2 and 3 of the MYP Programme.

- At least one common novel is read in Language and Literature and Language Acquisition in all grades.
- Supplemental novels used are decided by the teacher.
- Students in all three grades have AR requirements designated by his or her teacher.
- Literacy placement is determined by individual student needs (honors, literacy support, Multilingual Education, etc.). Assessment results used to determine placement include but are not limited to: MAPS, CMAS, and other criterion referenced tests as appropriate.
- Units of Study is the adopted district writing curriculum.
- Writing Across the Curriculum is used to teach, practice, and assess writing in all content areas throughout the year. Across all grade levels, NewsELA is used to support content area reading and writing.
- Reading and understanding informational text is built into all content areas in the programme.
- The use of IB Rubrics is required.

*This policy is based on Poudre School District IB Middle Years Program Language Policy.*

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II. The CLPMS MYP understands that true international mindedness requires the ability to communicate in more than one language. Therefore, all students are enrolled in a Language B class across years 1, 2 and 3 of the MYP Programme

Currently students are enrolled in an English (Language A) and Spanish (Language B) in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. To ensure that students learning in a language other than their first are supported throughout the MYP the following is our action plan for CLPMS:

- Spanish is offered as a Language B for Spanish speakers who are not skilled in written communication.
- An advanced Spanish pathway is available to students with previous language experience. Spanish 2 is offered.
- There is a Multilingual Education (MLE) instructional specialist who supports MLE students.

III. The CLPMS MYP recognizes that language should not be a limiting factor with regards to programme access and/or inclusion. In addition, CLPMS recognizes that embracing and celebrating diversity in the languages and ethnicities of students is a truly authentic means of creating a “global community” within a school setting. Practices already in place to ensure equity of access for students who are learning in a language other than their mother tongue includes:

- Offering a whole school, inclusive MYP
- Recognizing the value that student diversity brings to the learning environment and school culture
- Providing language development support in all content areas through the use of scaffolding techniques and varied teaching strategies to meet all learning modalities
- Promotion of mother tongue development through embracing and celebrating diverse values and cultural traditions
- Being intentional about choosing curricula that celebrates diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds
- Providing opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds to come together in the community of the CLPM Affinity Group
- Providing support for families through translated versions of school documents and messages, translation services and family liaison support for multilingual families.

III. Final Considerations: The language policy will be reviewed regularly based on the changing needs of our MYP students and to ensure the policy continues to be an active and vital part of the MYP at CLPMS. Other stakeholders interested in helping to develop and maintain the policy will be included as necessary. In addition, the language policy will be made available to all constituencies on the CLPMS website.