

LANGUAGE POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

We believe the key to all learning is through language and literacy development. Language learning improves cognitive function and enhances student performance across the curriculum. At Kehoe-France Northshore, all teachers are teachers of language and assume the role of language teacher. We aim to create a language learning environment that fosters the ability in students to think, create, and express themselves with confidence in two languages, English and Spanish. We believe learning a language other than the mother tongue provides many benefits including higher academic achievement, greater cognitive development, and promotes international-mindedness.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Promote an appreciation for the essential role of language
- Support students in the language of instruction (English) as well as in the development of Language B (Spanish)
- Promote international-mindedness through language learning
- Recognize the benefit of students learning multiple languages and being exposed to the respective cultures
- Prepare students for the 21st century global society
- Challenge our students in a multilingual environment
- Understand the connection of all languages
- Support our students with a mother tongue language that differs from our Language A or B
- Display visual representations of Language A and B in the students' classrooms and around campus

LANGUAGE A

- The primary language of instruction is English (Language A).
- Students with a mother tongue language that differs from the language of instruction are encouraged to share appropriately, but are supported to develop skills within Language A at school.
- Teaching practices reflect the responsibility of all teachers to take part in language instruction.
- The focus of the curriculum is to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy.
 - Reading and writing strategies are implemented across the curriculum.
 - The acquisition of vocabulary and concepts central to learning are scaffolded by providing visuals, collaborative learning experiences, assessment of prior knowledge, and promoting inquiry-based authentic language learning opportunities.
- Students have access to a variety of literature in their classrooms and our school's library.
- Assessments align with the language of instruction, Language A, and emphasize the importance of language in all learning.

LANGUAGE B

- The second language offered is Spanish (Language B).
- The focus of the curriculum is to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy in Spanish, in addition to an understanding of the Spanish culture.
- We adhere to the Louisiana World Language Standards:
https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-standards/modern-language-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=740c0fe4_11
- Spanish instruction begins in our two year old program. Students attend two 25 minutes sessions each week.
- Students in our Primary Years Program (PYP), which includes our 3 year olds through 4th grade attend Spanish classes two times each week. PreK-3 through Kindergarten attend Spanish for 25 minutes and 1st-4th grade attend Spanish for 45 minutes.
- Students in our Middle Years Program (MYP), which includes students in 5th through 7th grade, attend 45 minute Spanish class two to three times each week.
- Our library includes a collection of materials that supports the development of Language B.
- Assessments align with Language B within these classes and emphasize the important role of language in all learning.

SUPPORT OF MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGES

If a student's mother tongue is different from our primary language of instruction (English), we will support the student by:

- making the language visible in the classroom.
- modifying our speech and modeling directions.
- providing opportunities for interactions, like collaborative group work.
- supporting literacy development with reading and writing instruction.
- developing vocabulary through a variety of activities to build background knowledge.
- modifying texts if necessary.
- teaching learning strategies.
- modifying or adapting tests.

STATEMENT OF REVISION

Our language policy will be posted in the family handbook and on the school's website. During annual review, formal revisions will be considered, and feedback will be obtained from all appropriate stakeholders.