

Edward W. Bok Academy Language Policy



Purpose

Acquisition of language forms the foundation of learning, therefore the language policy of Edward W. Bok Academy North serves as a guide to achieving our mission to engage and empower critical thinkers with an intercultural view of the world while supporting students from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Our Knights are open-minded, risk takers who are reflective in their inquiry of knowledge making impacts locally and globally as lifelong learners. The Edward W. Bok Academy North Language Policy is developed specifically for the scholars in our Knight community. Providing a plan to support all mother tongues, supporting scholars who are not yet proficient in the language of the Middle Years Program, and learning the host country's culture and language will be the purpose of the Edward W. Bok Academy Language Policy.

Philosophy

The IB learner profile attribute of being “open-minded”, builds the capacity for our scholars to value and respect their own culture and personal history, and be open to the cultures, values, and traditions of other scholars and their communities. Acquisition of additional languages and researching the culture of other countries, build greater capacity for respect for intercultural views. With respect to each mother tongue, a multilingual learning community is fostered with the language of instruction being English and the acquisition of language being Spanish. Language is central to the learning process in every course with a culturally rich focus incorporated through reading, writing, listening, and speaking with rich and purposeful assignments.

Language Profile Languages used at Edward W. Bok Academy North

Language and Literature: English

Language Acquisition: Spanish

Languages of Communication Used In The School: English

The Types Of Mother Tongue Languages Represented at Bok North are: Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Mother Tongue Support

Edward W. Bok Academy North is committed to support the mother tongues of every scholar, staff member, and stakeholder. Our goal is to mirror the school community in the population of our staff as well as our curriculum and programs. Our multilingual, multicultural staff speak several languages and are often called upon to assist as

translators. Our school website has Google Translate in which families can choose the language of their choice to read the latest information. School call outs are translated into various languages with messages for families too.

English Language Learner Support

English Language Learners (ELLs) are in the mainstream classroom receiving the core curriculum with specific strategies provided. English as Second Language (ESL) course can be provided for intensive instruction in English through the use of second language acquisition methodologies designed to develop proficiency in comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing of the English language. Programs used are Rosetta Stone and Dual Lingo. Learning and language support is provided to assist in the acquisition of the English language at all grade levels through:

- Assessing of the progression of language acquisition using multiple points of data including: Writing Samples, Class and Subject Assessments and other work samples, observations, teacher feedback and student feedback;
- Offering professional development learning and training opportunities to Instructors to develop and refine ELL instructional strategies;
- Providing in-class support to instructors through various models of co-teaching and through pull-out support; and

Once a year, ELs are assessed through WIDA to monitor progress and determine further eligibility and placement. Language Acquisition Courses Language acquisition is a critical component of the MYP and in the development of the MYP student. We encourage every student to become fluent in more than one language. To this end, it is the expectation that all students will take Spanish.

The aims of the teaching and learning of MYP Language Acquisition at Edward W. Bok Academy North are to:

- gain proficiency in an additional language while supporting maintenance of their mother tongue and cultural heritage
- develop a respect for, and understanding of, diverse linguistic and cultural heritage
- develop the student's communication skills necessary for further language learning, and for study, work and leisure in a range of authentic contexts and for a variety of audiences and purposes
- enable the student to recognize and use language as a vehicle of thought, reflection, self-expression and learning in other subjects, and as a tool for enhancing literacy
- enable the student to understand the nature of language and the process of language learning, which comprises the integration of linguistic, cultural and social components
- foster curiosity, inquiry and a lifelong interest in language learning, within an enjoyable setting. (Language Acquisition Guide, 2015)

In MYP 1, students will take Excalibur.

For MYP2 and MYP3, students by take their Language Aquisition Course, Spanish.

Communicating the Language Policy

The language policy is communicated to all staff, families, and stakeholders. The full policy will be made available to staff and faculty and will be part of the orientation at the start of each academic year. It will be posted on Bok North website and scholar/staff handbook. Reviewing the Policy The MYP coordinator will ensure that the language policy is reviewed and revised every two years to reflect the current needs of the school population and to ensure consistency with IB expectations. All staff is responsible to ensure that the language policy is a working document, that it is followed and reflected upon.

References

Druid Hills Language Policy. (2019). (online). Available at https://druidhillsms.dekalb.k12.ga.us/Downloads/Druid%20Hills%20Middle_%20School%20Language%20Policy2.pdf Accessed 25 July 2022.

Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy (IBO, 2012)

Language Acquisition Guide. 2015.