

Lake Forest Hills Elementary International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Language Policy

Lake Forest Hills Mission Statement:

The mission of Lake Forest Hills Elementary is to develop life-long learners who are knowledgeable, compassionate, and globally responsible in an ever-changing world through partnerships with home, school and community.

School Language Philosophy:

We at Lake Forest Hills Elementary (LFH) believe that all teachers are language teachers and that the entire learning community of parents, faculty, and students play a role in developing intercultural understanding. We believe that a student learning additional languages other than his or her mother tongue helps the student to embrace a diversity of cultures and perspectives. Therefore, we are dedicated to increasing the ability of our students to use and understand a range of academic linguistic genres through listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy.

School Language Practices:

Classroom Instruction

The vast majority of our student population's mother tongue is English and most of our instruction is taught in English. Listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy are developed through learning experiences in our units of inquiry as well as stand-alone instruction.

Spanish Instruction

Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade receive Spanish instruction twice per week for forty-five minutes. All Spanish teachers work to incorporate the transdisciplinary units of inquiry into Spanish instruction. The development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media literacy are done through Spanish instruction.

Assessment

Language will be assessed using a variety of tools and reported through written reports, parent-teacher-student conferences, and portfolios.

Equity of Access

All students enrolling at Lake Forest Hills complete a Home Language Survey in accordance with Federal policy and guidelines. Students whose native language is one other than English are screened within thirty days of enrollment using the WIDA screener appropriate for their assigned grade level. This screener is used to determine if students are eligible for services through the ESOL program. Parents of students who are learning in a language other than their mother tongue may accept or waive additional instructional services provided by the Richmond County School System (RCSS). We at LFH encourage parents and students to continue to speak in their mother tongue.

The administration and faculty at LFH will continually assess the needs of our learning community in terms of providing mother tongue support. A variety of resources will be purchased annually to support the development of language.

Professional Development

Professional development for LFH faculty in regards to IB PYP will be met through a variety of ways. First, RCSS's Department of Teaching and Learning as well as our school's Instructional Specialist will continue to offer courses to teachers in regard to language development in the English language. Secondly, collaborative planning time, leadership team meetings, faculty meetings and onsite IB PYP training will continue to be used for professional development. In addition, LFH faculty will continue to attend PYP training. We will specifically have some faculty members attend workshops such as "The Role of Language", "Inquiry and the Additional Language Teacher" and "Local and Global Inquirers." Finally, the LFH principal, IB PYP coordinator, and faculty will continue to assess any needs for professional development and meet those needs as they arise.

Resources

Resources available in the classrooms and the media center will be reviewed and monitored on a continual basis. The media center budget, Title I funds, PTO and private donations will be used to acquire additional resources as needed. All classrooms, the computer lab, and the media center are equipped with the technology necessary to access a vast range of multimedia resources. World classics and culturally diverse reading material will be made available to students through our media center and classroom libraries. Additional resources will be acquired for our faculty's professional development in regards to IB PYP.

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