

***Mountainview Elementary  
Primary Years Programme  
Language Policy***

## **Beliefs**

Mountainview Elementary will ensure excellence in education to prepare learners for productive engagement in a global society through emphasis of multiple literacy strategies for all students. Language teaching occurs with the understanding that students bring their own unique cultural backgrounds to any new situation.

## **School Language Practices**

- ***English Language Instruction.*** English is the language of instruction for all classrooms. A variety of literacy strategies are used to promote contextual English language instruction addressing the modalities of thinking, listening, speaking, reading, writing, presenting, and viewing.
  - Each classroom and grade level building is text-rich with labels (in English and Spanish as well as American Sign Language and Students' mother tongue), word and letter walls, signs, explanations, teacher and student writing.
  - Reading is taught using both fiction and non-fiction literature, articles, and short stories.
  - Teachers read frequently from both fiction and non-fiction text, such as novels, picture books, and online articles.
  - Children are involved in a variety of literary studies, exploring different genres, authors, and styles of writing.
  - Teachers model writing, reading strategies, listening skills, and appropriate speech.
  - Teachers actively foster respect for and interest in other languages. They acknowledge and build on the knowledge of languages of their students.
  - Teachers use small groups and a variety of teaching strategies and styles to best accommodate the needs of individual students. Guided Reading occurs daily in which the students read at their instructional levels.
  - Vocabulary is emphasized in all content areas through discussion and the use of word walls. This is also included on daily lesson plans.
  - Language is a major component in encouraging understanding and tolerance of other culture groups and perspectives.
  - Computer-based literacy programs assist students.
  - Online text is available for students through resources such as Epic and Britannica.
  - Children write for authentic purposes.
  - Children communicate their understandings in learning through written and oral expressions.
  
- ***English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction.*** ESL instruction is provided for all students identified as English Language Learners (ELL).

- A home language survey is completed upon enrollment to identify a student as ELL. Students' scores on the LAS Links Test determine placement in a bilingual program at another campus, or in content based ESL instruction.
  - The ELL students' progress in reading, listening, speaking, and writing is rated annually using the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).
  - Mountainview also supports ELLs and their parents with translated materials sent home, and translation at conferences and parent meetings.
  - Parents are encouraged to read, write, and speak with their children, especially in their native language, as these skills will transfer over to their development in English.
- **Resources.** Multiple resources are available through the library, computer lab and classrooms.
- Over 1,400 items including books, videos, leveled readers, encyclopedias, story collections, and audio books fill our modern library.
  - Recent additions include a diverse selection of multicultural books, Learner Profile related books and Planner related books.
  - A large selection of Accelerated Reader (AR) books are available in fiction, non-fiction and biography titles.
  - Research opportunities for students are scheduled by the teacher and include various encyclopedias, reference books, and research through internet access.
  - DVDs and digital media are readily accessible that emphasize cultural diversity, science, and other content-specific themes for each grade level.
  - Spanish language books are available for students whose mother tongue is Spanish.
  - Instructional software and websites, such as PebbleGo, Smarty Ants, and Achieve 3000 are used by students on a regular basis in the computer lab and classroom.
  - Applications such as Epic and Britannica are available for students to access digital text.
  - Students learn how to conduct online research through instruction and assistance in the computer lab or classroom.
  - Scholastic Guided Reading Library books are available in the resource room for teachers to utilize during their small group instruction.
  - Scholastic Edge Classroom Libraries contain books for students to read.
  - HMH MyBooks are distributed to each K-5 student.
  - HMH Leveled Readers are in each K-5 classroom for students to read.
- **Spanish Language Instruction.** Each K-5 student receives Spanish language instruction on a weekly basis.
- Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students attend Spanish 50 minutes per week.
  - All grade levels study different Spanish-speaking areas of the world.
  - Students learn target vocabulary through thematic units, short stories, storytelling, songs, and interactive classroom activities.
  - Students learn Spanish through an input-based method called TPRS, or Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling.

- With TPRS, students are exposed to an abundance of authentic written and spoken language in a condensed amount of time.
- Teachers also support Spanish instruction in the classroom by displaying and using vocabulary that the students learned in their Spanish class.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The principal, PYP Coordinator and teachers collaborate in the development of the language policy.
- The language policy is reviewed at the beginning of the year and evaluated at the end of the year and is subject to revisions.
- All staff is responsible to ensure that the language policy is implemented across all areas of instruction and throughout the campus.
- All teaching staff is responsible to research resources for the classroom and school library.
- The principal and PYP Coordinator are responsible for professional development regarding language teaching and learning.
- Regular observation by school administrators, as well as class and school presentations, ensures that teachers are using good practices that support our language policy.