



## **AIES Language Policy**

*Updated October 2022*

### **District-wide Philosophy**

Academy School District 20 IB schools recognize that the study of language is the foundation for all learning. It fosters inquiry, understanding, and appreciation of others. It allows students to construct meaning and contribute to the development of the whole child. Language study develops international understanding, reinforces cultural identity, enhances personal growth, and promotes effective communication. We view all teachers and parents as essential contributors to the language learning process and understand that the most conducive environment is a safe environment of mutual respect, integrity, and dedication. We provide challenging curriculum, differentiated and varied instruction, and diverse learning experiences in a global society. Language is an essential vehicle which enables effective communication in our global community.

### **Languages of Instruction**

Academy International offers two programs of instruction, traditional English and French partial immersion. In kindergarten, the students are introduced to French during their specials time. Prior to entering first grade, families choose for their child to learn through either the traditional or the partial immersion program.

#### The traditional classroom:

From kindergarten through grade 5, we offer classes that have English as the primary language of instruction. Every class receives French weekly.

#### The French partial immersion classroom:

From grades 1-5 we offer partial immersion classes, which use a combination of English and French as the languages of instruction. Students in the immersion program receive part of their daily instruction in French, including their math and science lessons.

Academy International's French Partial-Immersion Program guidelines are:

- Students going into first or second grade can be admitted into immersion without prior French experience.
- Due to the progressive nature of the program, *after completion of second grade*, the world language teacher and the school counselor will individually assess all prospective immersion students to determine best placement.

### **World Language Program**

French is the world language offered at Academy International Elementary from kindergarten through fifth grade. The goal of the French curriculum is to develop students who are effective communicators, and who have an international understanding and respect for additional languages and cultures.

Our World Language program provides lessons in listening, speaking, reading and writing that are tailored to the needs of the students. The understanding and appreciation of other cultures is fostered through many activities integrated into daily lessons, while supporting units of inquiry.

### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

Academy International is an ESL magnet site. We are a full-service ESL provider. As English is the language used for literacy instruction, a need may arise for some students to have ESL support. We have one full-time ESL teacher and one half-time ESL teacher on-site. ESL students are identified by the district and supported by the ESL teacher, as directed by each student's English Language Plan.

### **Practices**

Every teacher is a teacher of language at Academy International. We teach language through inquiry-based, transdisciplinary instruction. Due to the transdisciplinary nature of the IB program, literature from multiple sources may be used to support units of inquiry in all subjects and the Colorado Academic Standards for communication, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

### **Home Language Support**

While English is the home language of the majority of our students, Academy International honors the various home languages of its community.

We support and value the home language by:

- Encouraging students to use their home language within the classroom when relevant, for example: sharing vocabulary words, and providing opportunities to use the home language in written and oral presentations, projects and assignments
- Including our students' home languages and cultures in events throughout the year, for example: celebrations, sharing and presentations, projects, and the AIES International Tour Day in the spring
- Maintaining and collecting various resources, such as books and displays, in diverse languages
- Encouraging the use of the home language at home
- Encouraging literacy in the home language, both at home and in school. For example, students can keep a home language book in their desk for silent reading
- Providing interpreters upon request, when available.

As PYP educators, we support home language as an essential component in language development, and its contribution to our international focus.

### **IB Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Adopted: 2007-2008

Reviewed: Fall 2022