

Annunciation Catholic Elementary IB World School Language Policy

At Annunciation Catholic Elementary IB World School we believe both verbal and non-verbal language is the basis of communication. Language development is continuous and occurs throughout a child's life. A child will begin with what they already know and enhance their abilities and knowledge through lifelong learning. Responsibility for language instruction is shared by parents, teachers, students and the community. At Annunciation, the goal is to assist every student to understand and appreciate language and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations.

Role of Language in the Primary Years Programme

Learning language, learning about language, learning through language

Authentic language development is embedded in our inquiry-based programs and the units of inquiry. It is incorporated vertically and horizontally in our Programme of Inquiry. At Annunciation, it is stressed that each teacher on site is a language teacher. Language learning takes place across all subject areas.

Listening and Speaking

Oral language enable the student to explore thoughts, feelings, ideas, opportunities and experiences. The use of oral language in learning and communicating, enables students to successfully communicate verbally for a variety of lifelong purposes.

Reading and Writing

Reading and writing skills are important means of communication. Reading assists the students in constructing meaning and developing critical thinking skills through text. It provides the students with a way to access information, gain knowledge, recognize different points of view and the experiences of others. By using effective writing strategies, the students are able to explore and communicate their thoughts and ideas, while engaging them in a variety of texts and genres.

Viewing and Representing

Viewing and representing one's language enables students to interpret, and create images. Students learn to understand how visual images can convey ideas, messages, values and beliefs. Through viewing, students actively attend to and comprehend visual media. Learning to interpret this data is an invaluable skill.

Language of Instruction

At Annunciation School, our goal is to enable our students explore their thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences; to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts; to manage ideas and information, enhance clarity and artistry of communication and to respect, support and collaborate with each other. We aim to achieve these outcomes within the framework of the Alberta English Language Arts Program of Studies and our Programme of Inquiry.

Additional Language Instruction

French is one of Canada's two official languages. Our French Language Program at Annunciation School offers students important cultural, linguistic and strategic knowledge as they develop and demonstrate their communication skills. The instruction of French is introduced in Kindergarten, following the French Scope and Sequence documents.

In grades four, five and six, the students follow the Alberta Program of Studies for learning French as a Second Language. Our goals are appreciation and enjoyment of French as a second language and

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to develop and improve communication skill in the French language. The learner profile is used as a guide to support the student to be successful in the acquisition of an additional language.

English Language Learner:

Language support is provided for those students who are English Language Learners (ELLs). Teachers, using best teaching practices, differentiate programming for ELLs. This includes focused reading instruction, differentiation of activities, and assessment that will allow learners to demonstrate what they know and can do. There are a number of additional supports for our ELL students. Some of these being: Family school liaison workers at One World One Centre, cultural animators, Imagine Learning, RazKids, BrainPop, talking dictionaries, and home/family language books. In addition, home/family language development is supported through a variety of resources and the use of home/family language in learning engagements and assessments. English language acquisition is also assessed using standardized benchmarks.

The school implements and reviews a language policy that is aligned with IB language policy guidelines. (0301-04-0100)
The school describes in its language policy the way that the school recognizes multilingualism as a fact, a right and a resource for learning. (0301-04-0200)
The school identifies in its language policy a variety of physical and virtual resources used to facilitate language development. (0301-04-0300)
The school clearly describes in its language policy the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community and what constitutes good practice within the school context. (0301-04-0400)
PYP: The school ensures that students learn a language in addition to the language of instruction, at least from the age of seven; multilingual programmes where students are learning at least two languages can but are not required to offer additional languages. (0301-04-0411)
The school considers the Learner Profile in all its IB-mandated policies. (0301-06-0500)
The school considers international-mindedness in all its IB-mandated policies. (0301-06-0600)