



# Language Policy

McCaskey High School  
Lancaster, PA  
The School District of Lancaster

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- Philosophy
    - We support language development as a means for interpersonal, presentational and communicative expression
    - Although our language of instruction is English, we view all languages as being equal in their ability to instill a sense of personal and cultural identity
    - Being fluent in more than one language develops good communicators in an internationally-minded environment
    - Having diverse cultural and linguistic learning opportunities helps to promote open-mindedness and gives students the necessary communication tools to understand and appreciate others
    - Continuous language development is the responsibility of teachers, parents and students
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- Language Profile
    - The language profile of our schools indicated that 23% of our students at the middle school level are English Language Learners. There are over 50 languages represented at SDOL.
    - English is the main language of instruction for all students and teachers at SDOL with the exception of the Language class of Spanish. In order to best meet the needs of our English Language Learners, teachers attend training facilitated by our English as a Second Language teachers. These teachers provide training and resources to assist the students. The English as a Second Language teachers also provide support during instruction to assist and help modify assessments in order to meet the needs of students.
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- Language learning

- Language is central to the development of skills within and across all subject groups
- We recognize that language can be specific to subject groups and disciplines
- To promote the use of appropriate language and the development of language skills, we:
  - Use visuals where appropriate or to enhance understanding;
  - Use graphic organizers;
  - Use both print and digital resources;
  - Use multiple types of texts;
  - Use body language;
  - Use various displays to enhance the learning experience;
  - Use multilingual artistic displays
- Language of Instruction: English
  - Language and Literature
    - Students demonstrate fluency in English (the language of instruction)
    - Fluency allows students to demonstrate content knowledge in linguistic, analytical, and communicative ways
    - English is the primary language of instruction in all subject groups
  - ELL
    - Identification
    - Levels and testing
    - Support: teachers often push in to support classrooms and often times students are pulled out of classrooms for more direct instruction.
    - Professional development is offered by the District office at least 4 times annually to all faculty
- Language Acquisition: Spanish
  - Assessment and placement
    - In their first year of MYP at SDOL middle schools, students are required to take Spanish as their language acquisition choice, and they continue for three years.
    - Proficiency tests are often administered when students begin at the middle school level in order to assess their competence in Spanish as necessary. Results from the tests are used to support students accordingly.

**Policy review process:**

- The Language policy will be available on the School District of Lancaster website. It will also be available by emailing the programme coordinator.
- The policy will be reviewed annually.

#### **Acknowledgements**

- Lehigh Valley Academy Language Policy (2017).  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GsjqFnCSe4nlvsLK4aYVgePoOvsPr0F0/view> viewed on October 6, 2019