**Corrales International School**

**International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program**

**Language Policy**

**Steering Committee Membership**

* Head of School
* IB MYP Coordinator
* Language & Literature Teachers
* Language Acquisition Teachers
* Students with a mother tongue other than English
* Students with English as their mother tongue
* Parents
* Community Members
* Computer Lab/Media Center Specialist

**Language Philosophy**

Corrales International School is committed to language acquisition for all students in all classes, across all subjects. Development of language skills, both spoken and written, is critical to strengthening communication and is an expression of culture. We value the linguistic diversity of our school community and are dedicated to supporting mother-tongue development, as well as the acquisition of additional language. Multilingualism increases cognitive abilities, including problem-solving, creativity and memory, as well a learner’s ability to communicate in diverse environments. All teachers are language teachers and are responsible for teaching language within and across subject areas. Language learning and teaching is an ongoing partnership between our schools, students, and parents. Parent and community support of this language policy is vital to its success.

**Language Profile**

English is the primary language of instruction, learning, and communication used in the schools. Students participate in at least one Language & Literature course (English) and one Language Acquisition course (Spanish).

Language Diversity

More than 10 mother-tongue languages are spoken by students who represent more than 8 different nationalities. Other than English,Hindi, Spanish, German, Vietnamese, and Arabic are some other mother tongues.

Albuquerque Public Schools English Language Learner (ELL) Policy

A Home Language Survey provided to all incoming students assesses student language needs to determine appropriate language support. Students are evaluated annually by the Head of School, Dr. Diaz, to measure English language proficiency. Corrales International School adheres to the following:

* APS English Language Learner Program Guide
* APS ELLs and World Languages Policy for middle Schools and high schools
* State of New Mexico’s “Handbook for Teachers and Administrators for Educating New Mexico’s English Language Learners”

**Mother Tongue Support**

Corrales International School supports continued development of mother tongue language skills for all students. Corrales International School provides the following services:

* Bilingual Language Assistants who provide services to ELLs and families to strengthen the relationship between home, school, and language minority communities. Workers are cultural liaisons and assist ELLs in the classroom.
* Oral interpretation and written translation
* Offer support in Hindi, Spanish, and Mandarin

**Primary Language of Instruction**

The primary language of instruction in Corrales International School’s MYP is English. All teachers are considered language teachers.

* Teachers model proficient literacy behaviors.
* Teachers and students work together to practice and develop literacy and communication skills.
* Students are expected to demonstrate literacy and communication skills both independently and in group settings.

Within this structure, students work to meet grade-level standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy. The scope and sequence of specific skills is prescribed by the Common Core Curriculum and Corrales International School teachers are expected to follow these standards.

**Language Acquisition**

The study of a second language aims to encourage an appreciation for and understanding of other languages and cultures; and to provide a skill base for further language learning. Spanish is the language acquisition course offered in the MYP Years 1-5 (6th-10th grade). Students learn to speak, listen, read, and write in Spanish as they move through a series of 6 language comprehension phases prescribed by the IB MYP. Language Acquisition study in the MYP must be sustained in the same language over the five years of the programme.

**Language Practices**

Courses in English are designed around the Common Core and New Mexico State Standards and the MYP *Language & Literature Aims and Objectives*. Language Acquisition instruction adheres to New Mexico state standards and the MYP *Language Acquisition Aims and Objectives*.

Preferred Bibliographic Style

MLA is the common style of citation of sources in student work for all departments

Language Expectations

Students are expected to speak and write in complete sentences, using academic language. During class, learners are expected to speak the language of instruction. Translating devices are permitted. Outside of class, students may speak a language of their choice.

**Professional Development**

Professional development is provided for all teachers in the district to support the Common Core and IB MYP curricula, which includes standards for reading and writing in the MYP areas of Individuals and Societies and Sciences. APS offers ongoing professional development to all teachers in the areas of “writing to learn” and reading information texts.

**Language Support Services**

Specialized support for student language development is available through the following programs:

* **English as a Second Language Program** – Students are placed included in all regular content classes and then receive assistance from our bilingual language assistants at specific times throughout the day and/or after school. The purpose of the bilingual language assistants is to support and accelerate English acquisition.
* **Special Education** – Students with SEN needs receive services from special education professionals typically outside of general education class times pursuant to Corrales International School’s SEN/Inclusion policy.
* **Gifted and Talented** – Teachers use strategies that further encourage vocabulary development, reading, writing, and inquiry across the curriculum, and the exposure to various forms of literature and informational text.

**Mother-Tongue Provisions**

At Corrales International School, we recognize that a strong level of knowledge and understanding in the students’ mother tongue is vital to the students’ development of an additional language. The majority of CIS ELLs speak Spanish. We encourage parents and students to speak and develop their mother tongue at home. This strengthens the child’s language skills, while instilling a sense of importance about his/her culture. In addition, resources are available to support mother tongue development and assist in communication with these families.

* Written parent communication is translated on an as needed basis.
* The Computer Lab includes reading materials printed in numerous languages.

**Assessment**

* Standardized assessments are given in English.
* Subject area assessments are given in the language of instruction, with appropriate accommodations made for language proficiency.
* APS has policies in place to accommodate needs of ELLs. As well, ELLs are required to take the New Mexico English Language Development Assessment each spring to monitor English proficiency.
* The MYP is an inclusive program. Students with special educational needs will receive accommodations and modifications for assessments as stated in Individual Education Plans or 504 Accommodation Plans.
* Please refer to the Corrales International School Assessment Policy for more information on assessment.

**Technology Learning Center and Language**

All students have access to the school’s computer lab. The center is open before, during, and after school. Most books in the lab are in English. A section is dedicated to mother tongue languages represented in our building, as well as an extensive selection of offerings in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Students have access to print materials and four laptop labs. Students are encouraged to access print materials in both mother tongue and second languages.

**Review of Language Policy**

The Student Advisory Committee meets annually to review the language practices Corrales International School. The purpose of this committee is to review the current language policy, communicate suggestions as needed, and communicate the language policy to all stakeholders.