



# Lee's Summit North IB Language Policy

## Introduction:

As an IB World School, the faculty has created and written a Language Policy. The purpose of the Language Policy is to inform our school stakeholders of our values regarding the language development of our students. This policy will outline our philosophy and practice of language instruction and acquisition and support for both our native English speakers and English Language learners. We are committed to meeting the language needs of all of our students. As the Learner Profile states, "We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways" (Learner Profile, IBO, 2013).

## Student Language Profile:

At Lee's Summit North, we have 1797 students from ninth-grade to twelfth-grade. Our primary language of instructional delivery is English. During the registration process, students that might require language services are identified. Of our 1797, only four students required and received English language support.

During the last three years, LSNHS has had four students out of 69 Diploma candidates for whom English was not their primary home language. However, these students have had no issues with the command of the English language as they were bilingual. There are currently no anticipated candidates for whom English is not their primary home language. For Diploma Candidates whom English is not their primary home language, considerations for those students will be made. A number of possibilities, beyond the ELL teacher, exist for giving these students the help needed.

The IB coordinator would be in close communication with teachers regarding students who do not speak English as their home language. Since the technical vocabulary associated with the rigor of IB courses can sometimes be problematic, teachers would provide additional support to these students. This support would be in the form of additional vocabulary and grammar instruction, extra help with the writing process either with the individual teacher or through the English Department and opportunities to practice oral communication standards.

## Philosophy:

At Lee's Summit North, we believe:

- Language is the primary means of communicating and learning;

- The acquisition of language is a life-long process and is a central component of intellectual and personal growth;
- Proficiency earned in one language is transferable to other languages, and language proficiency aids the student in acquiring competencies in other curricular areas;
- Language is an expression of culture and must be valued as an integral part of a student's identity;
- The development of the mother-tongue language is critical for maintaining one's cultural identity;
- Language learning promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding;
- Language learning must be fostered in all aspects of the school community;
- All teachers are language teachers;
- Teachers must strive to recognize the language needs of all students and work to serve these needs outside of the classroom; and
- Equity of access to IB courses is a fundamental right of all students.

### **Aims:**

At Lee's Summit North, our language programs aim to:

- Enable students to learn and use language effectively, appropriately, accurately, and confidently;
- Develop students' powers of oral and written communication;
- Enable students to develop and use language skills in a variety of contexts and purposes;
- Promote the appreciation, understanding, and analysis of literature;
- Encourage students to explore language as a means to understand the differing perspectives of people from other cultures;
- Develop students' awareness of the role of language in other areas of the curriculum and to other ways of knowing; and
- Provide an opportunity for enjoyment, creativity, and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of language and literature.

### **Secondary Language Study:**

The Language of instruction of LSNHS is English. All classes, with the exception of Language B classes, are conducted in English. Every Diploma Programme student must take one subject from Group 1 and at least one subject from Group 2. Choice of language level in each group depends upon the student's preference, level of proficiency and literacy in that language. If interest exists, students may earn a bilingual diploma by studying a "School-Supported Self-Taught" course.

Students in the LSR-7 School district may begin studying a second language at the secondary level in the eighth grade; students who elect to do so earn credit toward their

high school diplomas. We offer coursework in French, German, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. Typically, these students take three, year-long courses of a second language before beginning IB coursework in their second language as a junior in high school. Usually at the senior year, students may test in IB German SL, IB French SL, IB Spanish SL or HL, and IB Mandarin Chinese ab initio. If there is interest in a language we do not offer, students are encouraged to investigate Pamoja.

### **Support of the Mother Tongue Languages:**

Our faculty acknowledges the importance of the mother tongue language and its continued development. Our school supports mother tongue languages in the following ways by:

- Enabling the student to remain in touch with and maintain esteem for the language, literature, and culture of their home country;
- Facilitating readjustment to life in the home community and education system should they return to their home country;
- Facilitating the learning of a second language in Spanish, German, French, and Mandarin Chinese. In addition, we offer a Spanish Heritage class for students who speak Spanish in the home;
- Ensuring continuous cognitive development and additive bilingualism;
- Increasing intercultural awareness and understanding; and
- Highlighting a section of books in other languages besides English—Arabic, Chinese, German, Spanish, and Japanese. In the 400 section of the library racks, our school houses additional novels, dictionaries, and other learning aids in other languages.

### **Support of the Language of Instruction:**

Since English is the Language of Instruction at Lee's Summit North, our faculty is dedicated to ensuring student development in both the spoken and written word. We support the Language of Instruction through:

- ELL section (Resource Lab) at LSN;
- Providing literature readings in all classes from a variety of cultural backgrounds throughout the world;
- Seal of Biliteracy (see below);
- Our library conducts a summer reading program where students can checkout several books and receive a backpack in which to place the books;
- Independent choice reading: students self-select texts of interest; focus on volume, stamina, variety, and engagement;
- Regular opportunities for short writings: may be teacher-directed quick writes or student-selected topics/forms/purposes;

- Book clubs: student-selected texts read collaboratively with peers; usually aligned with an inquiry question;
- Mentor texts: the study of high quality, authentic writing (noticing, naming, emulating);
- Inquiry-based units of study with layered reading (fiction/informational), writing, speaking & listening, research (formal or informal), and language study; and
- Authentic written assessment: students produce writing that exists in the real world (i.e., not the traditional 5-paragraph theme!) in response to the essential question for appropriate and authentic audiences.

### **Additional Learning Opportunities of Language and Culture:**

We encourage learning of languages and cultures in addition to our coursework within the school day. Our language teachers alone (?) travel abroad throughout the summer months. Within the last five years, our language teachers have traveled abroad to numerous countries.

Within our school, students are encouraged to participate in the following enrichment experiences in mother-tongue languages, second languages, or additional languages with the aim of increasing cultural awareness and international-mindedness:

- French Club
- German Club
- Spanish Club
- Sign Language Club
- French Honor Society
- German Honor Society
- Spanish Honor Society
- UNICEF
- Earth Club

The LS-R7 School District provides students with the unique opportunity to participate in school-to-school exchanges during a student's high school career. These programs are not merely travel programs. Rather, school-to-school exchange programs are lasting partnerships which we celebrate and foster through mutual hosting and traveling annually/bi-annually. These programs contribute to distinguishing and setting apart the LS-R7 School district from others in Missouri and in our nation. LS-R7 has school to school partnerships with Menden, Germany; Dijon, France; Santiago, Chile; Xi'an, China; and Madrid Spain.

German: Lee's Summit R-7 School District and the Walram Gymnasium in Menden, Germany  
<http://walram.de/>

Spanish: Lee's Summit R7 School district with Colegio Jesús María, Madrid, Spain  
<http://www.jesumariagarcianoblejas.org/>

### **Missouri Seal of Biliteracy and Pathway Awards Program:**

The LSR7 School District adopted The Seal of Biliteracy and Pathway Awards Program beginning the 2018-19 school year. The Lee's Summit R7 School District has implemented a progression of Pathway Awards from kindergarten through middle school recognizing benchmarks towards biliteracy. Graduating seniors will be eligible to attain The Seal of Biliteracy, a state program which honors students who demonstrate proficiency in English and a second language.

The purposes for instituting the Biliteracy Pathway Awards include:

- To encourage students to study world languages
- To recognize and value biliteracy skills of all students
- To celebrate the acquisition of sociocultural competencies
- To prepare students for success in a global society and economy

The Missouri Seal of Biliteracy was adopted to:

- Encourage the study of world languages
- Recognize, promote, and praise students for their biliteracy skills
- Value diversity
- Celebrate the acquisition of sociocultural competencies
- Prepare students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in a global economy and society
- Strengthen relationships and honor the cultures and languages in our community

Adoption of the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy in the Lee's Summit R-VII School District:

- Validates language proficiency in our English Language Development student community
- Strengthens our modern language programs and aids in recruiting and retaining students
- Demonstrates the importance of language skills in English and languages other than English
- Values bilingualism

Students may have gained proficiency through any number of traditional or nontraditional methods, as a heritage language learner or as a new language learner. Students who have attained the Seal of Biliteracy have an intermediate level of proficiency and students who have attained the Distinguished Seal of Biliteracy have an advanced level of proficiency. The Seal of Biliteracy is listed on the high school transcript and offers vast opportunities for those pursuing higher education or joining the workforce.

This Language policy is posted on our IB website.

This policy was updated in January of 2024 with the input of the staff. This will be updated again in January of 2025.