Philosophy

Brown Academy of International Studies and Basic Academy of International Studies believe language is central to all learning and that multilingualism is a fundamental factor of fostering international mindedness. We are committed to extending access to an International Baccalaureate (IB) education for students from a variety of cultures and linguistic backgrounds. Through the exploration of languages, students can become highly effective and enthusiastic communicators in our global society. It is the shared responsibility of the school community to foster language development and all teachers, regardless of subject discipline, are teachers of language. It is our belief that learning a second language enriches personal growth through developing the IB Learner Profile traits, enhances development of students' mother tongue and promotes cultural identity and global awareness.

Language Profile

English is the language of instruction in the Middle Years Programme (MYP) offered at our schools. This allows students to make connections across all disciplines and develop appropriate linguistic, analytical and communicative skills. Students whose mother tongue is not English will be provided a range of services and supplementary resources to help facilitate their learning in the classroom and at home.

Language Programs at Brown Academy and Basic Academy

Language of Instruction: All students participating in the MYP programme will receive instruction in English and English language reading, writing, speaking and listening will be taught across all disciples in accordance with the Nevada Academic Content Standards. During the MYP years 1-3, Brown Academy offers Language A: Language and Literature to all students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at two levels: grade level and accelerated. In MYP years 4-5, Basic Academy offers Language A: Language and Literature in English to all students in 9th and 10th grade at two levels: grade level and honors. Students in 11th and 12th grades have the opportunity to take Language A: Language and Literature as a IB Diploma Programme course, or they may enroll in a non-IB language and literature course at one of two levels: grade-level or Advanced Placement.

Target Languages: In the MYP programme, students are scheduled to take a second language throughout their five years in the MYP at both Brown Academy of International Studies and Basic Academy of International Studies. As magnet schools, we recruit students from a wide geographic area. Students come to us with a wide variety of language skills in their mother tongue and with varying levels of experience in a second language. Second language classes use a variety of strategies and differentiation within the curriculum to assist and support language learning. Students are encouraged to view language acquisition as another way of expressing their ideas in a wide range of contexts and purposes. Through the acquisition of a second language, students develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures and countries.

Mother Tongue Support

- Students needing English language support at the time of enrollment/registration can self-identify, or be identified by school staff. Once identified, we utilize the WIDA Access Exam to determine the level of support and accommodations necessary for our English Language Learner (ELL) students. These accommodations can be utilized in both classroom settings and on standardized tests. Specific supports provided may include:
    - When possible, students are paired with a student who speaks the same language
    - Translation of materials into their mother tongue
    - Ability to use translation materials to translate classroom materials
    - Additional time to answer questions and/or complete assignments
    - Teachers are encouraged to use extended wait time to facilitate student participation
    - Focus on classroom discourse
    - Modified assignments or expectations
    - Family and Community Engagement Services program
    - Spanish for Spanish speakers course options
    - District-level refugee services
    - Access to student success advocates
- The libraries at Brown Academy and Basic Academy offer resources to support both mother tongue languages and language acquisition courses.
- To ensure cultural inclusiveness, our libraries provide a wide variety of multicultural literature so students can research their own cultures, as well as the cultures of others.

References

Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy. Publication. Cardiff, UK. International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014.
https://resources.ibo.org/ib/resource/11162-occ-file-g_0_iboxx_amo_0804_2_c?lang=en

Language and Literature Guide. Publication. Cardiff, UK. International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014.https://resources.ibo.org/myp/subject-group/Language-and-literature/resource/11162-32901/?lang=en

Language Acquisition Guide. Publication. Cardiff, UK. International Baccalaureate Organization, 2020.https://resources.ibo.org/myp/subject-group/Language-acquisition/works/myp_11162-413061?lang=en

Language Policy: Elite International School. Policy. Alexandria, Egypt. 2020.
https://onlineelite.net/policies/

MYP Language Policy: Walter Johnson JHS and Spring Valley HS. Policy. Las Vegas, NV. 2020.
https://www.springvalleyhs.com/policies-guidelines

MYP: From Principles into Practice. Publication. Cardiff, UK. International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014.https://resources.ibo.org/myp/resource/11162-32896/?

Nevada Academic Content Standards: English Language Arts. (2017). State of Nevada Department of Education. https://doe.nv.gov/Nevada_Academic_Standards/ELA/

Programs and services for English language learners. Clark County School District. 2021.
http://ccsd.net/schools/back-to-school/ell.php