



West Millbrook Magnet Middle School

IB Middle Years Programme Language Policy

2025-2026

PHILOSOPHY

West Millbrook Magnet Middle School values language development for all students and believes that all staff are teachers of language. Bilingual and multilingual students (or individuals) are more equipped to successfully navigate global relationships and engage as responsible citizens. We believe students with advanced language skills are more likely to develop a respect and appreciation for other cultures while also cultivating a deeper, more meaningful idea of their own identity. We celebrate and support the use of the mother tongue. We understand the importance of an adolescent to acquire a sense of belonging, and recognize language as a critical means toward that end. However, we also believe that mother tongue must be employed as a tool to bring groups together rather than to isolate or diminish.

PRACTICES

In order to most fully develop advanced language skills:

- All students will engage in a Language and Literature course each year.
- All students will engage in one Language Acquisition course each year, in the same language each year of the MYP, unless phrase 4 proficiency is achieved in the second language, hence allowing engagement in a third language.
- All students will engage in at least 50 hours of instructional time each year, in both Language and Literature and Language Acquisition.
- West Millbrook will ensure sufficient time and continuous instruction is provided to allow for the opportunity to meet Language Acquisition objectives. The fluidity between levels of language acquisition courses allows students to acquire maximum language development.
- All teachers teach language. Each teacher is an expert on the language of their discipline and therefore teach academic language to each student. Building language builds effective communication skills in and out of the classroom.

ORAL LANGUAGE

As language development includes spoken communication, students will be given opportunities to develop and demonstrate these skills across the curriculum. As part of Approaches to Learning skill development, students will receive direct instruction to support oral communication development in the host language. Throughout Language Acquisition courses students will be evaluated across all four domains: speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

MOTHER TONGUE SUPPORT

Mother Tongue support is an important part of identity development. To this effect, West Millbrook Magnet Middle School supports mother tongue development in these ways:

- Some native speakers receive additional support and instruction in their mother tongue to further advance their language development in their mother tongue.
- Resources are available in multiple languages, both print and digital, to help students further develop their own language and better access material in other languages.
- Support teachers in their understanding of the differences between cognitive academic language proficiency and basic conversation skills development, and how these impact students.
- When appropriate, students will be given opportunities to use mother tongue across disciplines and in presenting MYP Community Projects.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Response to Intervention and Multi-Tiered System of Support: A Response to Intervention team is available for students who need extra support. This team includes administrators, intervention coordinator and teachers. This team would determine placement in intensive language support classes depending on students level of need.
- Gifted Resources: Students identified as Academically Gifted are grouped with other AIG students in their Language Arts courses to receive more advanced instruction.
- Special Education and Inclusion services. See school inclusion policy for more information.
- Media Specialists: Media specialists will make resources available to all students in a variety of global languages to further students' language development. These resources will included printed materials as well as non-printed materials (online, video, audio, etc). They will collaborate with language teachers to find out what other resources teachers may need or want for their students.