Linda Vista Magnet Elementary School

Language Policy

2019-2020

**Mission Statement:**

Linda Vista Magnet Elementary School provides rigorous, enriching, and differentiated instruction that empowers globally minded life-long learners to achieve their personal potential.

We prepare students to successfully navigate in an ever changing world by providing opportunities to excel through collaboration, inquiry, and an atmosphere that promotes curiosity, critical thinking, and integrity.

**Vision Statement:**

Linda Vista Explorers **W**onder, **N**avigate, **E**xcel, and **S**trive to build a globally-minded community of citizens who contribute to a diverse world.

**Language Beliefs:**

“A language is not just words. It’s a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It’s all embodied in a language.” -Noam Chomsky. With this in mind, all teachers at Linda Vista Magnet Elementary School are language instructors and all students are language learners. Linda Vista Magnet is committed to developing lifelong language learners who are able to communicate effectively in a global society.

**Identification:**

* During the school registration process, the mother tongue will be identified through the Home Language Survey and entered into our AERIES data system. All teachers have access to this information through AERIES.
* All students who are listed as speaking another language other than English will be tested on an English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC), as required by the state of California.

**Scope and Sequence:**

* The language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are developed with the IB PYP language scope and sequence.
* Students will be required to communicate using text and media to research and present ideas.
* Spanish instruction for grades K-6 occurs weekly.
* Language will be taught through the context of the units of inquiry, whenever possible.
* English Language Development (ELD) support is integrated throughout instruction using leveled text, adopted curriculum, and grade level complex text.
* Teachers will work with IB PYP Coordinator to plan learning experiences that allow students to develop language in meaningful ways, make connections to other content, and provide a foundation for life-long learning.

**Instruction:**

*Classroom Instruction:*

* Teachers will integrate all subjects into the units of inquiry to provide students the opportunity for transdisciplinary learning throughout the day. The primary language of instruction at Linda Vista Magnet is English. We use a grade level CCSS, balanced literacy for ELA instruction. Within this model, students work to meet their grade level standards in listening, speaking, reading, writing and research.
* The IB strands of Oral Language (listening and speaking), Visual Language (viewing and presenting), and Written Language (reading and writing) are represented in the POI.
* Multiple components of literacy may be happening in the classroom simultaneously.
* DIBELS and running records are given to every student and the results are used by the classroom teacher to help guide classroom instruction. Students reading below grade level meet with a teacher (classroom, reading intervention teacher, and/or special ed) for additional reading instruction daily.
* Teachers will provide differentiation and/or small group instruction in order to develop language for each student during the unit of inquiry.
* Students will have opportunities to write every day for a variety of purposes and will build on the content of their unit of inquiry.

*ELD:*

* Students identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) are provided with 30 minutes of designated ELD daily and integrated ELD through the course of the academic day.
* Teachers use the ELD standards and/or components from the the adopted ELD Benchmark Advanced program. When possible, teachers will use the IB Transdisciplinary Theme’s content for dELD.
* For integrated ELD, teacher will use research based strategies such as GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Strategies), sentence frames, Thinking Maps, and collaborative conversations.
* ELLs are assessed using the ADEPT, district assessments and state ELPAC.

*Mother Tongue Support:*

* At Linda Vista Magnet, we believe in the need to support our families whose native language is not English. We encourage our 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, we use a number of resources to support mother-tongue development and assist in our communication with these families.
* We interpret written communication into the mother-tongue of the parents as much as possible.
* We provide interpreters for ELAC, PTA and other school events.
* Our Community Liaison helps support teacher/parent communication regarding immediate issues.
* We provide interpreters for parent/teacher conferences and other meetings when needed.
* The school encourages parents and students to maintain the child’s mother tongue and to share cultural and language information with the school community and integrate this information into the units of inquiry when applicable.

*Second Language Spanish Instruction*

* Our students in grades K-6 receive language instruction in Spanish for 30 minutes one time per week.
* The credentialed language teacher provides instruction that supports the development of Spanish language skills for all students.
* The instruction will support the unit of inquiry when possible and allow students to learn not only the language of Spanish, but also to understand the various cultures of Spanish speaking countries.
* The credentialed language teacher will meet with the IB Coordinator monthly to discuss instructional goals, assessments, and IP unit integration.

**Assessment:**

On-going formative assessment informs instruction and allows for differentiation through small groups. Through instruction, teachers will differentiate, target and support all students in oral language (listening and speaking), visual language (viewing and presenting), and written language (reading and writing). The school’s assessment policy outlines the Linda Vista philosophy and specific assessments given and is followed by all teachers. Data team meetings are held monthly and the data is used to inform on-going support for all students and help identify any students that need additional support.

**Professional Development:**

Linda Vista teachers are provided staff development days, articulation days, and professional development hours to ensure growth in the use of assessments and research based best practices. In addition, site-based collaborative grade level meetings are held weekly with the IB coordinator for any additional support needed. The IB coordinator is available to support teachers in the classroom to model lessons and support themwith instructional practices learned through professional development.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Linda Vista Magnet Leadership Team will review the Language Policy annually and at times where there may be changes in our language practices. If any revision to the Language Policy is made, the Head of School will communicate these updates to the staff and school community.