

Language Policy



Parkway Middle School
An IB World School
Kissimmee, Florida
The School District of Osceola County



Philosophy

All stakeholders of Parkway Middle School are collectively language learners. Together we support language acquisition and continue the development in a mother tongue while celebrating different cultures and backgrounds. To meet language competencies, the school community is encouraged to embrace and exemplify the traits of the IB Learner Profile that will assist in establishing the exemplary language practices that we strive for at Parkway Middle School.

Students who are language learners are:

Inquirers - One who possesses the skills to become informed on different perspectives.

Principled - One who regards others respectfully and takes responsibility for their own actions.

Open-minded - One who is open to and respects the differences of others.

Risk Takers - One who approaches challenges confidently and preserves the rights of others.

Communicators - One who can express ideas and concepts clearly and articulately in the designated language.

Reflective - One who considers the implications of their actions and ways to improve.

It is through these attributes and qualities that students will become productive language learners. Such practices will be introduced, modeled, and encouraged in each classroom and all areas on campus.

Definitions

Language of Instruction - The language in which an IB World School delivers IB programmes and courses to its student population.

Language Acquisition - All languages that are being acquired other than the mother tongue.

Mother tongue – One's native language. The language one grew up speaking.

Multilingualism - Complex, rich, dynamic language portraits that include a range of abilities or proficiencies in more than one language.

Language Profile

Language Diversity

Of Parkway Middle School's 658 students seventy-eight percent of our student population identifies as Hispanic / Latino. The remaining twenty-one percent are White/Non-Hispanic, Black, American Indian / Alaska Native, Asian, and Hawaiian / Pacific Islander. The language needs of our diverse population vary greatly. For forty-three percent of our students, Spanish is the mother tongue with English being the mother tongue for forty-four percent of our students. The remaining four percent of our students have a mother tongue of Arabic, Bengali, Creole, Filipino, French, Haitian-Creole, Indian, Jamaican Creole, Polish, Portuguese, or Taglog. The language of instruction at Parkway Middle School is English.

Language Needs

During registration, parents are asked to complete a survey regarding home language. If a parent identifies a language other than English as being spoken in the home (whether or not it is the mother tongue of the family) the student is placed in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course until the student's language assessment determines a more appropriate placement in a language course. Students identified as Multilingual Learners (MLL) will be placed in English Language Development (ELD) class where students will be acquired English as a language, as per state and district requirements.

Current Practices

Spanish-speaking MLL students will receive English as their Language and Literature component. They will also be scheduled in Spanish for Language Acquisition according to their abilities in reading, writing, and speaking in Spanish. French speaking students will receive a Language and Literature course of study in English and will be placed in French as their Language Acquisition course according to their abilities in reading, writing, and speaking French. All students whose mother tongue is English will be permitted to choose their Language Acquisition course (French or Spanish). Students are required to commit to a language choice for all three years of the program, unless they have tested as having mastered their choice in reading, writing and speaking, which would be Phase 3 of Language Acquisition. At that point those students will take the other language offered. If a student's mother tongue is English yet they have a background in either Spanish or French and able to speak at all in that language, they are encouraged to remain in that language in order to achieve the International Baccalaureate Organization and Parkway Middle School's goal of multilingualism.

Conventions

To ensure consistent and reliable conventions for citing resources in all eight subjects throughout the campus, Parkway has adopted the Modern Language Association (MLA) format. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, now in its ninth edition (2021) is available in our Media Center. Online resources are available at www.mla.org or

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/index.html All teachers and staff members support the use of MLA and will provide necessary instruction to all students in order to make certain the format is being used with fidelity. Please refer to the Academic Honesty policy for further information regarding appropriate academic behavior.

School-wide Language

It is Parkway Middle School's expectation that all in-class language is conducted in English. However, teachers who are bilingual are encouraged to speak in multiple languages to support the needs of students. Language Acquisition courses (French and Spanish) will primarily instruct students in the language of instruction. Parkway embraces multiculturalism and there is a high percentage of students that speak other languages fluently; therefore, it is acceptable and encouraged for students to speak their native tongues.

Teaching & Learning

The administration and faculty of Parkway Middle School believe and value language as an integral facet of the educational experience. All teachers contribute to the language learning process. It is our expectation that language instruction is conducted throughout the course of each subject area and will include competencies such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Parkway students will receive sustained language instruction in two languages throughout each year of the MYP (provided the student is fluent in English). Language instruction will be appropriate for the year of the program and will be assessed according to the MYP criteria and objectives. All students will benefit from the support of Parkway Middle School faculty and administration. The school counselors, librarian, and ESOL staff are able to provide any assistance as necessary. Please refer to the Special Needs Policy for further information regarding academic support.

Language and Literature & Language Acquisition Courses

Language and Literature at Parkway Middle School is required in each year of the Middle Years Program. The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) identifies students that are reading below grade level in English (ELA scores of 1 or 2). To comply with state and district requirements students that are not proficient in English will receive two English courses. If the student's mother tongue is English, he/she will receive two Language and Literature courses in English until they demonstrate proficiency. If the student's mother tongue is Spanish and he/she is an ESOL student, they will receive two Language B courses in English and one Language A course in Spanish. If the student's mother tongue is Spanish and he/she is an ESOL student, they will receive two Language and Literature courses in English and one English Language

Development course to support the development of the language. If the student's mother tongue is a world language other than Spanish, he/she will receive two Language and Literature courses in English and support from the ESOL staff and librarian in his/her other courses. Students at Parkway Middle School that identify English as their mother tongue and are proficient in English will receive English for Language and Literature and Spanish or French for Language Acquisition.

These policies ensure that all students at Parkway Middle School benefit from the opportunity of learning an additional language (Language Acquisition) and move toward the IBO and PWMS goals of multilingualism. In order to fully embrace the international educational experience that Parkway Middle School offers, it is essential for students to follow the language path that has been outlined above, as well as wholeheartedly participating in self-reflection regarding their language abilities based on the MYP language criteria and objectives.

General Guidelines

Parkway Middle School aims to provide students with a quality international education that promotes multilingualism and intercultural awareness. The ideal profile of an MYP student at Parkway is that of a critical and compassionate thinker, an informed participant in local and world affairs, who values the shared humanity that binds all people together while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life. Thus Parkway Middle School has a responsibility to provide a thorough and fulfilling language instruction that enables students to learn, develop, grow, and reach their maximum potential and we expect the following from our faculty and administration:

- Provide opportunities for all students to learn a second language
- Maintain a global awareness and understanding of students' cultures and other cultures
- Participate in ongoing learning opportunities to support language learning in the classroom
- Implement strategies and technology to facilitate language learning
- Emphasize authentic learning experiences and encourage intellectual curiosity among all community members