



Mirdif American School

Language Policy

Date Updated
December 2022

Date of Review
Annually

Lisa M. Brown

Principal Approval

O. Ghandour

Randa Ghandour

Board Approval

MAS Vision: Education for a Lifetime – Creating well-rounded, ethical, global citizens who are innovative and dedicated to lifelong learning

MAS Mission: Mirdif American School strives to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all students. At MAS, we aim to create a collaborative and inclusive learning environment while developing reflective thinkers, who understand the past, explore the present, and impact the future equipped with 21st Century skills. We are committed to developing well-rounded, ethical and global citizens who can contribute to a fast-paced and changing world

Policy Definition and Purpose in Mirdif American School

School policies are sets of established expectations and systems for specific behaviors and norms within Mirdif American School. Policies create shared ownership in the development of the whole school to support the school's mission and vision. The policies we have are put in place to guide our day-to-day functioning as well as make this a safe and effective place for learning to occur.

1. LANGUAGE POLICY

POLICY FOR	Language				
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Person Responsible	Director of Teaching and Learning				
Review/revision date	December 2022				
Reviewed/ revised by	English HoD SLT				
Approved Date					
Approved by					
Date of next review	June 2023				
Related policies					

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Language Policy

Language is the foundation for all learning and understanding within a school. Every student at Mirdif American School is a language learner and every teacher is a language teacher.

A. Language as Subjects

English is the primary language of instruction at MAS including English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Extra Curricular classes. Every effort is made to support our large population of students who are English Language Learners (ELL). Classroom teachers work to provide ELL students with access to content aligned with the Common Core Standards. Working with grade-level content, students strive to build reading and writing skills, as well as develop academic-level speaking and writing skills.

Teachers of all subjects will model correct language use in conversations orally and written. The students will be allowed to develop and utilize language beyond classroom conversations through oral presentations, assemblies, debates, speeches, role-play, poetry recitations, and songs.

Arabic is another language taught at MAS as it is the language of our host country. Arabic is taught to all students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8. Arabic classes at MAS have two paths of Arabic A (family language) and Arabic B (Arabic Language Learners) to support the needs of students.

In supporting MAS students who are Tier 3 in English, the school has a designated English as Another Language (EAL) teacher who does pull-outs based on the needs of students. The EAL teacher collaborates with the English Language Arts (ELA) teacher to support English language development in the selected students.

MAS students who require additional support to ensure their understanding of a topic may have translations done by the teacher or a peer. Students may also use this scaffolding of instruction to support student achievement.

French is offered to middle school students as an elective. By offering French, MAS strives to provide students with additional opportunities to become multilingual communicators. Spanish and French as an additional language will be offered after

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school to students who are interested. English language support will be available to students Identified as needing support.

B. Languages in Social Context

MAS students are free to speak with their peers in the language of which they are most comfortable while on break and in social interactions.

We acknowledge that language plays an important role in cultural identity; therefore parents/guardians are encouraged to continue speaking to their child(ren) in their home language to instill cultural values and practices related to family/home language.

C. Language as Media Communication

MAS has adopted Seesaw (an interactive learning platform) to communicate with parents in English in grades KG through 5. Schoology is the school's official Learning Management system and is accessible to students and parents and has a translation option which is being explored. Nexquare (the school's student information system) is host to a sharing application for memo's, messages, progress reports, and student report cards.

The school provides Arabic translations of memos and announcements. This translation will always be accompanied by the original document in English.

Where necessary, due to the composition of the school community, meetings held with staff may be conducted with the dual language of English and Arabic.

Where necessary, practical, and accessible, a teacher may translate or request a translator in meetings with parents about a child's behavior, academic progress, and overall development.

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