



## 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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