



Jordan-Elbridge Middle School MYP Language Policy

Philosophy

The Jordan-Elbridge Middle School is committed to serving **ALL** students through the IB Middle Years Programme. Every educator on our campus is a teacher of language, and we embrace the language diversity of our school community. We know that instruction in a mother-tongue language and the learning of a second language positively affect intellectual growth and enhance a child's cognitive development. By learning a second language, students will become aware of the diversity in ways of thinking and communicating thereby supporting the IB learner profile. We recognize all languages as a form of communication in and outside of our classrooms.

Therefore, we believe:

- The acquisition of language is a lifelong process and is a central component of intellectual and personal growth.
- Our policy supports the use of the mother tongue language at home.
- Language learning promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding.
- By integrating language into every aspect of the curriculum, we are teaching students the importance of culture, diversity, and sensitivity toward others.

Definitions

Mother-Tongue—“The language(s) learned first; the language(s) identified with as a “native” speaker; the language known best; the language used most.” Mother tongue is the language the student learned first and is the prominent language used outside the school for that student.

Language Acquisition— Language Acquisition describes the learning of a language subsequent to a first language with the goal of communicating with competency outside of the classroom, therefore actualizing the IBO Learner profile.

English Language Learners (ELL) – ELL instruction is provided to those students for whom English is not the student's first language. An assessment by ELL teachers will determine proper placement.

Language and Literature and Language Acquisition Instruction

The Jordan-Elbridge Middle School strives to follow the IBO MYP program requirements. In accordance with the IBO MYP philosophy, students at Jordan-Elbridge receive instruction in English Language Arts and Spanish. In some cases, students may not receive a second language class due to their individual need for language intervention. The student may receive additional English intervention to support their development of English reading and/or writing skills.

Host Language

- The language of instruction at Jordan-Elbridge is English.
- The district scope and sequence along with the New York State ELA Requirements have been aligned with the MYP Mother Tongue Aims and Objectives outlined in the MYP Subject Guide.

Language Acquisition

- The language acquired at Jordan-Elbridge Middle School is Spanish.
- In preparation for the MYP, 4th and 5th grade students receive weekly instruction in Spanish.
 - Temporarily suspended for the 2020-21 school year due to Covid-19 restructuring.
- While participating in the MYP, students receive daily instruction in Spanish language acquisition.