



# LANGUAGE POLICY

## **Our Language Philosophy:**

At Fairmont our language policy is aligned with our mission and driven by our guiding principles. We believe language is central to all learning and is an important part of a child's development. We believe language is essential to a child's social emotional development and cognitive skills. We believe Language connects all aspects of the curriculum and that it is used as a tool to construct meaning and develop an understanding of the world. We believe that our teachers are teachers of all children. Therefore, the focus of language is incorporated across all subject areas and throughout our written curriculum. Our teachers ensure that each student is exposed to teaching and learning that reaches them as individual learners through a balanced literacy program, hands-on learning experiences and differentiated assessments to meet the needs of all students.

## **Our School Language Profile**

### **Our School Community**

Fairmont Private School of Fresno students are predominantly English language speakers. Through our newly implemented Home Language Survey we will identify other represented cultures and languages (mother tongues) of our student population. We are committed to providing support and resources to a diverse group of learners. The aim of our Language Policy is to address the needs of our students and to provide support and to help all students to be successful learners. Language support for mother tongue languages will be provided through library resource collections representing the native tongue languages of our school, through tutoring and collaboration from the parents.

## **Language Responsibilities of Our School Community**

### **Role of the Teacher**

All of our teachers are practicing language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication. Teachers facilitate language development through rich environments that support effective communication and language development. Our teachers receive resources and continuing professional development in language learning and teaching to ensure best practices and that we meet the changing needs of our students.



## **Language of Instruction and Acquisition**

English is our primary language of instruction. All instruction across the curriculum is presented in English. Our young learners engage in a wide variety of language experiences which includes listening, speaking, reading, writing, visual arts, music and drama across the subjects areas and throughout all Units of Inquiry.

Students participate in real-life learning experiences to construct meaning and make connections across the curriculum. Examples of these authentic experiences include collaboration, role playing and cross age sharing and learning. Through a balanced literacy program, hands-on learning experiences and assessment the differentiated needs of our students are met and a strong foundation is built to create lifelong learners.

## **Second Language of Instruction**

Furthermore, we believe that all students should have the opportunity to learn an additional language while respecting their primary language and culture. At Fairmont, we have chosen to teach Spanish as our second language. Spanish instruction begins in our Toddler Program and continues throughout our Preschool, TK and Kindergarten Programs. The instruction of a second language introduces our young learners to a foundational understanding of the world in which we live and promotes a global perspective. Spanish is incorporated into our Transdisciplinary Units throughout our classes. Students are provided with real-life opportunities to use Spanish through classroom instruction, special visitors and special school events. Spanish instruction is currently offered 2-3 days a week for 30-40 minutes each day of instruction. We are increasing our Spanish instruction time for the 2021-2022 school year to 5 days of instruction for all age levels. Instruction time will include 30-40 minute lessons.

## **Inclusion and Language Support**

We are committed to creating a school environment that supports all students in their abilities and language development. Our teachers incorporate flexible strategies, instruction, resources and assessments to engage all students in the learning process.

Students whose primary language is not English are supported and encouraged to continue to study and develop their mother tongue. The support for the mother tongue is established in a variety of ways including:

- Our Home Language Survey, will provide information for parents and teachers to work together in planning the student's language and development profile.

- Our first “Multicultural Night” scheduled for Spring 2022. The evening will include food samples, songs, dances, clothing, and exhibits which represent cultures throughout our school community.
- Classroom Libraries and Resources to represent all cultures in our school community which includes literature and multicultural learning resources.
- Parents and community members are invited to share their culture and language throughout our Units of Inquiry.

