



San Antonio Independent School District
MARIN B. FENWICK ACADEMY
2022-2023



LANGUAGE POLICY

Language Philosophy:

Fenwick Academy's philosophy of language instruction is that all staff play a key role in the development of all student's language. We further believe that each stakeholder, from home to school to community, plays a significant role in the development of a child's ability to understand and express themselves in more than one language.

Language Values:

Fenwick Academy values the role of language in our daily life. Language is the conduit for understanding each other, building relationships, and fostering communication. At Fenwick, we build on a student's native language through our dual language program. Students are exposed to Spanish beginning in Kindergarten. Throughout the school, evidence of multiple languages (English and Spanish) are displayed through signs, labels, and student work. Language is taught through many modalities such as listening, speaking, reading, writing and visual literacy. Students also learn to apply language in science, social studies, mathematics, literature studies, design, fine arts, and athletics.

Language Profile and Identification:

All Fenwick families complete a home language survey when enrolling their student for the first time. Students whose native language is not English, are assessed for language proficiency in both their home language and English. The campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) determines instructional programs and supports for students learning English, which includes the following options: Dual Language program and/or English as a Second Language instructional support services.

Language Instruction:

Types of Language Support, Strategies and Practices:

Fenwick Academy teachers and staff provide various instructional supports to assist students in developing and acquiring both oral and written language proficiency. Such supports include,

- 7 steps to a language rich classroom (Bill Perryman and John Seidlitz)
- Differentiated instruction and scaffolding
- Modeling
- Language taught through the curriculum
- Transdisciplinary skills of reading, speaking, writing, and listening
- Making connections
- Cooperative Learning
- Approaches to Learning Skills
- Writing across the curriculum
- Cooperative Learning opportunities
- Direct language instruction
- Field Experiences and Guest Speakers
- Cultural exchange programs

Parental Support:

Fenwick Academy will foster language development through student, teacher, and parent communication and collaboration:

- Newsletters and flyers distributed in English and Spanish
- Family, and Community Engagement Specialist
- Parent volunteers
- School Community events such as literacy nights and IB showcase events to promote our student's growth in language learning.
- Community work and Service Learning
- Open House and Student Led Conferences

Language Acquisition

Students at Fenwick Academy will receive instruction in a second language beginning in Kindergarten. The progression of language courses is as follows:

- **Kindergarten thru 5th grade:** Students will receive Spanish instruction during weekly specials rotations. A second language may be added for grades 3-8 in the future.
- **6th grade:** All students in grade 6 will take a year-long Spanish class, in which they will receive instruction introducing them to Spanish.
- **7th grade:** All students will take year 1 of high school Spanish.
- **8th grade:** Students will take year 2 of high school Spanish.

Assessment:

Fenwick Academy will assess student language development and acquisition using the district guidelines, campus assessment policy, and the language acquisition subject guides and rubrics.

Professional Development:

Fenwick teachers will participate in professional development to learn strategies that support the following:

- Language acquisition and development, both native language and second language
- International Mindedness and Cultural Awareness
- Subject-specific IB training

Communication and Review of Policy:

This policy will be posted on our campus website. It will be addressed within the community through events such as Parent/Principal Coffee, PTA Meetings, Student Performances and Exhibitions, Newsletters, and other methods of communication.

The Campus Advisory Team will review the language policy each year. Stakeholders may make edit suggestions and revisions. The Language Policy must be approved by the Campus Advisory Team.
