

East Garner Magnet Middle Language Policy

Mission

The mission of East Garner Magnet Middle School is to provide our students with equitable access to a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares them to be successful global citizens.

Philosophy

At EGMMS, we recognize that language is fundamental to learning across the curriculum and in literacy development including the development of the language of instruction, world languages, and mother tongue. We believe that the study of language empowers students to gain a deeper understanding of other cultures and that being able to speak another language indicates deep respect and appreciation for that culture.

School Language Profile

Students attending East Garner Magnet Middle speak a variety of languages. Most of our students speak English while others speak Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Arabic, Italian, Thai, Jarai, Kishwahili and Montagnard. Because of this linguistic diversity, our students fall into the following categories: English speaking students with limited or no Language Acquisition experience, English speaking students with prior Language Acquisition instruction, bilingual students who speak their mother tongue as well as English, and non-English speaking students.

- ***Language of Instruction***

The language of instruction is English with the exception of our Language Acquisition classes where instruction is delivered in the target language.

- ***Language and Literature***

One of our eight IB subject areas is Language and Literature. The language of instruction in these courses is English. All teachers are part of the language-learning process, so concepts found in Language and Literature are transferred to the other IB subject areas. Professional development for staff is provided to support each of the curriculums.

- ***Language Acquisition***

Linguistic diversity is a positive element in our modern society as it fosters respect for other cultures as well as global awareness. Our belief throughout the Language Acquisition process is that speaking another language is only one aspect of the student's development as a 21st century citizen. Students receive instruction and gain experiences related to the culture and perspectives of people who speak the target language being studied.

Units are designed to blend MYP aims and objectives with the World Language Essential Standards. Emphasis is placed on the four literacy domains—reading, writing, listening and speaking. Formative and summative assessments are used instruct teaching and

evaluate student progress, some of which are assessed using MYP Criteria. All content is taught within the IB Global Contexts.

East Garner Magnet Middle School offers three Language Acquisition paths: French, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Students begin and continue their path in the MYP Years 1-3. Our Year 3 students take a proficiency exam at the end of the year which may enable them to receive high school credit and placement into advanced Language Acquisition courses in Year 4. Language Acquisition teachers of the Garner MYP partnership work together to ensure efficient vertical articulation.

- ***Mother Tongue support and Language and Literature Support***

Students whose mother tongue is not English are screened by a language proficiency test (ACCESS) developed by WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) consortium. Students receive additional support as determined by the English Language Learners (ELL) department. Resources available to these students include tutoring during the day, parent sessions presented in the heritage language, language dictionaries and translated written texts. Heritage classes are offered to Spanish speaking students in order to preserve the skills in their mother tongue. Students are encouraged to maintain their cultural identity and heritage language while celebrating other countries that share the language.