

# Ocean Knoll School

## *IB PYP Language Policy*



### **Philosophy**

At Ocean Knoll Elementary we recognize that language is fundamental to the development and cultural understanding of our students. We promote intercultural understanding and respect in order to prepare students for a global economy. All students at Ocean Knoll are language learners. We have made a commitment to our students and parents to provide a learning community that promotes and supports language diversity. Ocean Knoll offers a variety of academic and enrichment programs designed to build a strong academic foundation while at the same time providing our students the opportunity to develop as internationally-minded learners.

### **Language of Instruction**

English is the language of instruction at Ocean Knoll Elementary. We believe that language skill development provides a vehicle for inquiry. Students receive an extra dose of Language Arts instruction individualized to their learning levels. The program of inquiry provides an authentic context for learners to develop and use language. At Ocean Knoll we recognize the importance of incorporating the teaching and learning of language throughout the transdisciplinary programme of inquiry. The mastery of essential language and communication skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing is a vital part of a student’s overall development. All students at Ocean Knoll receive an enriched language instruction in which English is the primary language.

For our English Language Learners we offer a comprehensive program through which they acquire the skills and knowledge needed to understand the curriculum. All of our teachers are credentialed as CLAD (Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development) or BCLAD (Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development) teachers. All classroom teachers have earned their CLAD or BCLAD certificate. Many of our teachers are trained in GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design). This allows them to support all second language learners in the regular classroom setting. Teachers also negotiate the programme of inquiry by scaffolding lessons and providing extra language support as necessary. Imagine Learning, Lexia and Myon are individualized digital language programs utilized to support our students in their learning of English through leveled listening, reading, writing opportunities.

Ocean Knoll’s designated ELD (English Language Development) program utilizes the Lingual Learning Program. Students interdependently develop language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students use language in a variety of ways to

support their development of social, instructional, and academic language in a small, supportive, and encouraging environment. The designated ELD program allows students to have the opportunity to practice and apply oral language to support classroom instruction. Students attend the ELD program 4 days a week for 35 minutes.

### **Additional Languages**

For our entire student population we offer Spanish as a world language. In order to best serve the linguistic diversity on our campus, two types of classes are offered - Spanish for English speakers, and Advanced Spanish for Spanish speakers. The program supports the IB units through theme based vocabulary development and discussion. Students in grades K-6 receive 26 weeks with 35 minute sessions. Spanish instruction is part of the weekly enrichment rotations to allow grouping by proficiency level.

All aspects of our language program require formal as well as informal assessments. These assessment are used to assess prior knowledge, guide instruction and evaluate student progress.

Ocean Knoll's Language program enables students to:

- to develop an increasing level of competence in the language
- to develop an understanding of, and respect for, Spanish tradition and culture
- to develop pride in, and increase proficiency of, their mother tongue

Ocean Knoll's Language program includes:

- opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills by integrating communicative activities and units of inquiry into the language program
- opportunities to learn about and discuss current events from Spanish speaking countries

### **Mother Tongue Support**

In an effort to preserve the native language of our students we encourage families to continue speaking, reading, and writing in their mother tongue language at home and to take advantage of enrichment opportunities in our community. Research has shown that development of mother tongue language is crucial for cognitive development and in maintaining cultural identity. At Ocean Knoll we make an effort to increase cultural awareness and understanding, and enable students to remain in touch with and maintain esteem for the language, literature, and culture. Spanish for Spanish speakers provides weekly support for our native Spanish speakers to continue the development of their mother tongue.

Our school librarian incorporates multilingual books and media that are accessible to all students and staff. There are currently over 900 Spanish titles of varied level and genre. The number of Portuguese titles is increasing. In addition to our school library, staff has access to reading collections for classroom instruction that align with the IB units. Our

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staff collaboratively makes decisions on what resources to purchase based on student needs and instruction. Although a majority of site resources are in English, they are culturally and globally diverse.

### **Language Profile**

When students enter Ocean Knoll parents are asked to complete a home language survey. This data allows us to identify and support any students in learning English.

### **Language Assessment**

English Language Learners are required to take the CELDT, an annual exam in English Language Development, required by the state of California. This data allows us to monitor the progress of our English Language Learning students and the efficacy of our English Language support programs. The CELDT will be replaced

### **Resources**

Making The PYP Happen, A curriculum framework for international education, IBO, 2009 PYP Language Scope and Sequence, IBO, Feb., 2009  
PYP Guidelines for developing a school language policy, IBO, April 2008  
PYP Coordinator Handbook, IBO, 2013-2014  
PYP Pedagogical leadership in a PYP school, IBO, 2009 PYP Basis for practice, IBO, January 2009

### **Ocean Knoll's Language Policy Committee**

Julie Stansell - IB Coordinator  
Jennifer Bond - Principal  
Patty Paolillo - ELD Teacher  
Karely Gonzalez - Spanish Teacher