



## **IB Language Policy**

### **School Mission and Vision Statement**

**Our vision:** Alex Sanger Preparatory School aspires to become the leading International Baccalaureate (IB) and Dual Language school in East Dallas. We are committed to cultivating globally-minded scholars who are well-prepared for academic and professional success, poised to contribute significantly to their communities and the world.

**Our mission:** Alex Sanger Preparatory School delivers a world-class education that promotes equity through dual language proficiency and experiential learning. We empower our students to evolve into globally-minded scholars who possess the skills to make a positive impact on society, both locally and globally.

### **Philosophy & Commitment**

At Alex Sanger Middle School, we firmly believe that all teachers bear the responsibility of facilitating language instruction. We emphasize the development of language skills in English, Spanish, and students' mother tongue languages. Aligned with the principles of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), we view every staff member as a language teacher. This philosophy drives us to integrate language instruction and cultural exploration into the curriculum across all disciplines, fostering globally-minded and connected citizens.

We embrace students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, and for the majority of our students, English is not their first language. Given this demographic, we are dedicated to a language policy that supports language acquisition and inclusion, especially for our students.

### **Identification**

Upon enrollment, students new to Alex Sanger are assessed for English language proficiency if their first language is not English. The Las Links placement test determines students' English proficiency levels, allowing us to determine the need for placement in ESL classes.

### **English as a Second Language**

Alex Sanger's primary language of instruction is English, in alignment with the Texas Course of Study for English Language Arts. Our English Language Learners (ELLs) receive differentiated support from specialized personnel. This support includes collaboration with regular classroom teachers and ESL teachers, with services guided by individual student needs. Students undergo the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) annually to assess proficiency levels in both written and spoken English.

### **Dual Language Program**

In our Dual Language program, instruction is conducted in both Spanish and English, fostering bilingualism and cultural exchange. Although most classes are primarily conducted in English,



our Science courses are offered in both Spanish and English, allowing students to practice both languages in an academic context.

### **Speech/Language and Hearing Impaired**

Students in need of Speech/Language or Hearing Impaired services are identified through referrals by staff or parents. Our licensed speech-language pathologist delivers services tailored to individual needs as outlined in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Hearing screenings are conducted, and specialists offer consultative and direct services, supporting inclusive practices in regular classrooms.

### **Professional Development/ Teacher Support**

Our staff participates in continuous professional development to support IB and language instruction. This includes IB MYP training, district-sponsored professional development in reading and writing, and weekly Professional Learning Community meetings. We utilize district-wide professional development days to expand our knowledge in areas that address diverse student needs. The ESL department collaborates with teachers to provide targeted strategies and instructional practices throughout the school year.

The school has collaborative forums, such as regular workshops and team meetings, to encourage teachers to share successful language instruction practices and resources. These forums promote a culture of collaboration, enabling educators to learn from one another and enhancing their collective expertise in language instruction.

### **Parent Communication Resources**

We provide resources in both English and Spanish, offering translation services for all communication. ESL parent classes are available to enhance English proficiency. Our community liaison connects parents with academic and non-academic resources. Parent training sessions cover topics related to language acquisition and home assignment support.

### **Mother Tongue Language**

Interpreters and translators are accessible for parent-teacher conferences, programs, meetings, and general communication. Bilingual staff and stakeholders offer additional support. We are committed to adding resources and books in the mother tongue to our media center, promoting respect for the languages and cultures represented in our school.

To further support the mother tongue language, the school organizes parent workshops and events that provide guidance on how parents can actively engage in fostering their child's Spanish language development at home. These initiatives reinforce the partnership between the school and parents in promoting multilingualism.

Cultural celebrations throughout the year highlight the diversity among our students. Special emphasis is placed on integrating cultural elements into the curriculum and extracurricular



activities, fostering an inclusive environment that values and respects the rich tapestry of our school community. The school actively involves the local community in cultural celebrations and events such as the Hispanic Heritage Festival and African American History Festival. This includes inviting community members to share their cultural experiences, organizing collaborative projects with local cultural organizations, and fostering partnerships that enhance the cultural vibrancy of our school.

### **Additional Language Acquisition**

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, we offer additional language classes in Spanish for grades 7-8. Students work towards acquiring a new language while maintaining their mother tongue. Classroom teachers incorporate appropriate Spanish vocabulary, supporting students in their language acquisition journey. In the MYP, students in language acquisition are grouped into phases.

- Level 1- Beginner
- Level 2- Intermediate

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year students in grade 6 participate in a Discovering Languages course. Through this course students are introduced to 6 languages across 6 modules throughout the years. The languages are:

- French
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- German
- Korean

### **Support of English Language Development**

Per MYP requirements, students participate in a language acquisition course and three years of MYP language and literature courses, available in English. These courses develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The Amplify program exposes students to various texts, enabling connections across subjects and encouraging analytical skills. Teachers model learning and provide scaffolded activities to facilitate inquiry and achieve MYP objectives.

### **Teacher Responsibilities**

- Facilitate language development across all subject areas.
- Foster effective communication skills.
- Provide opportunities for real-life knowledge and cultural awareness.
- Highlight the importance of language acquisition.
- Review and update the language policy as needed.

### **Student Responsibilities**

- Commit to learning a language other than their mother tongue.



- Communicate effectively in all subject areas.
- Follow teachers' instructions in all subjects.
- Attempt to communicate in a language other than their mother tongue.

#### **IB Coordinator/Leadership Team**

- Communicate the language policy to the school and the local community.
- Ensure the master schedule supports language acquisition for all students.
- Review and update the language policy as needed.
- Provide appropriate professional development opportunities for all teachers and

#### **Policy Review:**

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to reflect our ongoing commitment to inclusion and the evolving needs of our school community.

#### **Policy Communication:**

We share this policy annually with all stakeholders through staff and parent newsletters, campus meetings, and professional development. The policy is also available online for reference.