

Hawthorn Academy

Language Policy

Beliefs

We believe that all teachers are language instructors responsible in facilitating communication. Therefore, Hawthorn Academy has created a language program which centers on English as the primary method of instruction as well as the introduction of Spanish as a second language. Our goal is to provide a learning community that promotes and supports language acquisition and development in both English and Spanish.

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction at Hawthorn Academy is English. English connects the students with all of their learning across the curriculum. Students are given many opportunities to listen, speak, read, and write in order to communicate effectively. Our language arts program provides each student with reading, spelling and writing instruction at their own level through their classroom teacher. The scope and sequence of our language arts program is determined and written by the Common Core State Standard Initiative. The Common Core State Standard Initiative meets IBO and state/national standards. We are required to abide by the stated document.

Mother Tongue Support

The majority of Hawthorn Academy students are native English speaking students. At the beginning of every school year, all parents fill out a home language survey which informs us as to the mother tongue of each student as well as the primary language/s spoken at home. All students identified as English Language Learners are assessed to determine their language acquisition level. ELL teachers are provided when needed. Hawthorn Academy has allotted resources to provide

literature in English, and Spanish. Our library continues to build its book, video, newspaper, and magazine collections to provide mother tongue support.

Second Language Instruction

Our mission states that we “provide an environment where students will develop a desire to explore and understand the world around them”. Learning a second language helps students enhance their awareness of learning styles, strategies, study skills, and culture. All students receive 30 minutes of Spanish instruction twice weekly.

Special Education Needs

Students who qualify for Special Education services in Language Arts under federal guidelines, receive services from qualified Special Education teachers and teacher assistants. These services are provided in addition to their general education language arts instruction and practice.

Professional Development

All Hawthorn Academy staff is actively involved in personal learning in the language arts. Teachers are encouraged to attend courses, workshops, and conferences, and read professional resources . Additionally, the school offers language arts professional development for all teachers.

Hawthorn Academy Supports Language Development By:

- Presenting language through meaningful tasks and authentic context
- Encouraging students to communicate in supportive and comfortable classrooms
- Providing positive and information feedback
- Using a variety of groupings for student work
- Using a wide range of instructional strategies to teach language through a balanced literacy approach
- Using technology in language learning

- Using a range of teaching resources including audio and video, games and texts
- Providing differentiated lessons and assignments in order to challenge all students
- Using the writing process, including drafting, editing and sharing work with others
- Ongoing assessment of reading levels, fluency, and comprehension to place students in appropriate instructional reading levels
- Providing level one and level two interventions for students who fall within specific levels on reading assessments

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