



MYP LANGUAGE POLICY

AIS VISION

A community fostering respect, leadership, and empathy through interculturalism and the joy of learning.

AIS MISSION

Through a rigorous, trilingual program, we fuel inquiry and inspire each other to develop critical thinking skills in a community where curiosity is valued, adventurousness is encouraged, and diversity is honored.

INTRODUCTION

Austin International School is an authorized IB World School for the Middle Years Programme. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education that Austin International School believes is important for our students.

OUR LANGUAGE POLICY

At Austin International School (AIS), our language policy is inspired by our school's mission to offer a "rigorous trilingual program that fuels inquiry and develops critical thinking". We are committed to delivering instruction in three languages: French, English, and Spanish, and teachers and students move seamlessly across these languages throughout the day and across content. We believe that as they make connections between languages throughout their time at AIS, they are also able to make connections with each other in order to celebrate the rich diversity of our school.

Our curriculum is largely based on the French Ministry of Education (FME) and we are an AEFÉ school (homologated French school abroad). In order to maintain this accreditation, our curriculum incorporates FME requirements, which are complemented by the American Common Core Standards. For students who enter our school after Kindergarten and through 5th Grade (CM2) we offer French as a Foreign Language (FLE) for non-French speakers or beginning-French speakers to be able to follow classes in French. This one-year intensive course allows students to fully integrate into our seamless curriculum the following year. The objective of our seamless program is for students to master their end-of-year competencies in each of the three languages, with French reflecting about 60% of instruction, English 25%, and Spanish 15%.

In the Middle School, Grades 6-8 maintain this percentage of instruction in French and English, and in Spanish, they have the option of three levels: Spanish Foundations (emergent), Spanish Language (capable), and Spanish Language and Literature (proficient).



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Throughout the entire school, the common working language is English, and all employees of the school have working proficiency in this language.

IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

For students joining our school in Middle School through the MYP program, we offer a second track with English as the instructional language for Language and Literature, Science, Math, and Design. To align with our trilingual program, prioritizing French learning, we will offer French Foundations (emergent), and French Language (capable), as language acquisition courses, as well as the three different levels of Spanish. Students will also have the opportunity to have full immersion French course for Individuals and Societies and Spanish course for Art, PE, and Community Project. Across all subjects, teachers are recognized as language teachers who will deliver their subject content in one of the school languages and will also ensure that the students use and grow their vocabulary and language skills for the specific discipline.

POLICY DOCUMENTATION

Review process. The AIS MYP Language Policy is a living document and will be reviewed periodically to reflect current practices in the school, international best practices for Language teaching, and other practices required by the government or accrediting agencies. The policy was first drafted on February 12, 2024. Contributions to this policy include:

- Head of School (Ariane Baer-Harper)
- MYP Coordinator (Claudine Escobar-Durand)
- IB Teachers