

# Annunciation Catholic School Language Policy

## ***Mission Statement***

Annunciation Catholic School aims to empower all scholars to become reflective, compassionate and mission driven individuals dedicated to use their God given gifts and talents to create a better world. Through a deeper and broader understanding of their faith, accompanied by an appreciation of the universality and connections of the entire world, our rigorous academic curriculum will foster in our scholars an empathic understanding of and active participation in the world as global citizens.

## ***Vision Statement***

The Annunciation Catholic School teachers, parents and community are dedicated to help all students apply their personal attributes to lead productive lives and to become contributing members of the global community.

## ***Learning Philosophy***

The curriculum is marked by current content and fresh approaches to methodology. There is emphasis on principles rather than fact, on learning through problem solving rather than by precept. We strive to offer a program which makes use of many sources of reading material, a wide variety of audio visual and technology tools and a multi-text approach to the content areas. The goal of the learning is to create a community of learners.

## ***Teaching and Learning Expectations***

- All ACS teachers are language teachers with responsibilities and practices in facilitating communication skills utilizing a learner- centered approach and best practices to prepare its students to be independent, self-sufficient and lifelong learners.
- English is the language of instruction in the ACS classroom. All learning is through English.
- All ACS scholars are expected to learn a language that is not their mother tongue (either Spanish, English, or Latin).
- All ACS teachers are expected to maintain inclusion and equity practices in the classrooms for all scholars with needs or learning a language other than their home/personal language.
- All ACS teachers are expected to differentiate lessons to respond to those students in need of services, remediation and acceleration.
- ACS offers support for multi language scholars. We have developed a blended learning approach that addresses the academic needs and goals of every student. Students can receive additional academic support in remediation and acceleration, time management, organization, test taking and study skills.
- All languages spoken at ACS are respected, and promote a wider community.
- All ACS staff attend Professional Development in culture, learning, and teaching to maintain the ACS Language Policy. These efforts are directed towards our most valuable assets in our schools: the people; staff, students and parents.
- Teachers select and provide access to literature from a variety of cultural backgrounds

## *Definitions*

- Home-Language: Often referred to as Mother-Tongue. The language a student uses at home and/or outside of school. This could also include multiple languages, since many second-language scholars are using more than two languages at home.
- ELA: English Language Arts: a core course of instruction in an elementary or secondary school where students develop listening, speaking, reading, composition, grammar, and spelling skills in English.
- ELL: English Language Learner, also known as ESL, English Second Language, referring to scholars that have English as a second language.
- Differentiation: Differentiated teaching occurs when a teacher plans a lesson that adjusts either the content being discussed, the process used to learn or the product expected from students to ensure that learners at different starting points can receive the instruction they need to grow and succeed.

## *ACS Language Profile*

- ACS offers Language lessons in English, Spanish and Latin. Each scholar is required to learn English and Spanish.
- ACS scholars in fifth through eighth grades are required to take Latin.
- ACS is a diverse language community, there are English, Spanish, Amharic language speakers. ACS community members have included French, Russian, Belarusian, Korean, Japanese or Tagalog.
- ACS language profile seeks to link culture and communication through language learning.
- The language courses aim to foster five core standards: Community, Communication, Comparisons, Cultures, and Connections.
- English lessons will receive up to 180 minutes per week. Spanish lessons receive up to 90 minutes per week. Latin fifth through eighth grades receive up to 90 minutes per week.
- Scholars' world language experience aims to prepare them to become global citizens who effectively communicate and collaborate with diverse audiences. In each grade scholar will have the opportunity to read, write, speak and listen in new languages.
- Each classroom has its own library. The school furnishes books for the libraries.
- Each classroom has excess technology that will enhance the language learning experience. These may include Chromebooks for all scholars, Classroom Smart Boards, and websites Classworks and Epic Reading.

## *Languages Offered*

- English
- Spanish
- Latin (5-8th Grades)

## *Language Instruction*

- Teachers select and provide access to literature from a variety of cultural backgrounds.
- Teachers provide differentiated instruction for students with special needs, including students with learning disabilities and students who are academically talented and gifted.
- Teachers assess students using a combination of formative and summative assessments and incorporate the IB rubrics.
- Courses are designed to support future academic study by developing higher levels of language competence and language communication skills as well as social, aesthetic, and cultural literacy.

## *Additional Supports*

- All scholars have access to chrome books. Each classroom has its own library - scholars check books out through the classroom libraries. Needed books are ordered and provided through the ACS Learning Center. The Learning Center facilitates student materials in native language and the use of all media needed to engage students.
- The ACS LEarning Center provides all Counseling services to identified scholars who are in need of additional language support and facilitate interventions to help scholars become successful learners.
- A variety of clubs and extracurricular activities allow opportunities for scholars to learn and express themselves in native and other languages: French Club, and K-Pop Club.

## *Practices*

Annunciation Catholic School uses a Reading and Writing Workshop approach to language instruction. The classroom environment is rich in print and literature to equip students with the tools they need to become lifelong readers and writers who can communicate their thoughts. Teachers act as facilitators who model writing, reading, listening skills and appropriate speech.

*Language Arts instruction includes:*

- Readers Workshop at least 60 minutes a day
- Readers Workshop includes a short mini-lesson with opportunities for students to practice strategies through book clubs, independent reading time, iStation, or partner reading time.
- Opportunities for scholars to share their learning through oral productions, skits, songs, debates, stories, listening stations, etc.

*Writing instruction includes:*

- Writers Workshop at least 60 minutes a day
- Writers Workshop includes a mini-lesson, independent writing time, and a time for students and teachers to share their learning

## *Assessment*

Scholars are assessed in their development of oral language, written language, and visual language including viewing and presenting. While the end product is often assessed as an indicator of growth, the process is also vitally important and assessed. Students are given feedback based on both their growth towards individual learning goals and our state standards using a variety of strategies and tools. Formative assessments may be used along with teacher assessments, pre assessments, peer assessments, and self assessments. Assessment data is communicated to parents through report cards, parent conferences and students-led conferences, and through written/oral work samples. (See ACS Assessment Policy for more detail.)

*Last date of review - January 10, 2023*