

Wade King Language Policy

Assessment Philosophy and Practices

Updated 4.18.19

Wade King Elementary School aims to develop knowledgeable, skilled, compassionate, principled, and action-oriented young people through a rigorous program of inquiry.

Philosophy

The acquisition of language is a natural, lifelong process that permeates all learning. At Wade King School, language is the nucleus of the teaching and learning cycle and therefore all teachers are teachers of language. Language is a means to access information, enhance intellectual growth, foster communication, develop social skills and values, and broaden social and cultural awareness.

Practices

At Wade King School, we know that the learning process involves learning *language*, learning *through* language and learning *about* language. Language connects all subject areas and is woven throughout the Programme of Inquiry.

Our primary goal is that students become proficient in all areas of communication. The language of instruction is American English. We explicitly teach and support student growth in six interconnected literacy strands within three modes of communication:

- Non-verbal: expressive and receptive
- Oral communication: listening and speaking
- Written communication: reading and writing
- Visual communication: viewing and presenting

Intentional, collaborative design of learning environments supports our students in formulating questions, constructing meaning, and problem-solving. A purposeful focus on inquiry encourages students to engage in active and critical thinking that integrates language throughout all learning.

Teachers assess and evaluate students' prior knowledge and current abilities. Through ongoing formative assessment and progress monitoring, teachers plan learning engagements using developmentally appropriate best practices.

At all grade levels, teachers choose from an array of teaching modes after taking into consideration the assessed level of reader(s) and the supports and challenges of texts being used, including:

- Interactive Read Aloud
- Whole Group Mini-Lessons
- Shared Reading and Writing
- Guided Reading and Writing
- Independent Reading and Writing
- Student-Teacher Conferring related to Reading and Writing
- Reader's Theater
- Student Presentations
- Literature Circles/ Book Clubs

Teachers differentiate language instruction to accommodate a wide range of academic, social, and linguistic levels and abilities.

Teachers collaborate and consistently use adopted, inquiry-based literacy resources. They use both narrative and informational texts. Teachers strive to represent diverse ideas, races, cultures, and abilities across a broad range of subjects.

Teachers provide welcoming language learning environments where student approximations, critical thinking, divergent thinking, and reflection are nurtured. Language learning fosters creativity and imagination through self-expression.

All students have research opportunities with both print and electronic resources. Students use research steps when compiling information and practice citing sources for their research in an age-appropriate format.

The School's Additional Language

Learning more than one language broadens cultural understandings. All students at Wade King receive instruction in Mandarin Chinese as the school's additional language. Developing student understanding of the Chinese culture is just as important as learning the language. Students attend a Chinese class with a native Mandarin Chinese teacher, according to these guidelines:

Grade	Mandarin Instruction with Mandarin Teacher
Kindergarten	20 minutes per week
Grades 1 - 5	40 minutes per week

The Mandarin Chinese teacher supports our staff in integrating a Mandarin Moment into our Monday Morning Whole School Meetings and regularly shares videos of students learning Mandarin Chinese with families through SeeSaw posts.

English Language Learner Support

Support for students whose mother-tongue is not English is primarily provided by the classroom teacher. A district ELL Specialist provides consultation for teachers of all students who are identified as English Language Learners, as needed. The ELL Specialist may provide supplemental instruction for students performing at Level 1 on an English Language Proficiency Assessment.

In addition, the collections of books and audiobooks in the library provide students with literature in the range of mother tongues that are spoken in the school's community.

With the support of our District Family Engagement Department, interpreters and translators support our non-English speaking families to be sure they are able to engage with school staff and that our school staff are able to engage with them.

Language Policy Annual Review Process

The certificated staff at Wade King will meet each spring to review our Language Policy and make any needed revisions. If significant changes need to be made in our policy, those changes will be overseen by our PYP Leadership Team.