

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE CATHOLIC SCHOOL **MYP LANGUAGE POLICY**

Language of Instruction

English is the language of instruction across the curriculum (except in lessons other than English) and the common language of communication in the school (reports, correspondence, websites, etc.).

ACMS' Language Philosophy:

Assumption College Catholic School (ACS) adheres to the philosophy and practices as outlined in the Elementary Language Curriculum document written by the Ontario Ministry of Education in 2006 as well as the Secondary English Curriculum document written by the Ontario Ministry of Education in 2007.

- ACS believes that literacy development is a communal project, and the teaching of literacy skills is embedded across the Ontario curriculum.
- Language development is central to students' intellectual, social, cultural, and emotional growth and must be seen as a key component of the curriculum.
- Language is the basis for thinking, communicating, learning, and viewing the world.
- Language is a fundamental element of identity and culture. As students read and reflect on a rich variety of literary, informational, and media texts, they develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others and of the world around them.
- Language skills are developed across the curriculum and, cumulatively, through the middle year grades.

Language Acquisition - Second Language Learning

The study of French is an important part of the MYP curriculum. French is not only one of Canada's two official languages, but is also widely used around the world.

In order to prepare students for the global world, MYP Students study Language Acquisition –French, in each year of the program. MYP students at Assumption will typically already have 2 previous years of instruction in French. MYP Students are expected to follow the French program until the end of Year 5. To enhance the French MYP experience, Assumption offers a variety of experiences including print and multimedia resources. This provides an opportunity for students to experience and practice their second language in a global context.

Language Diversity and Support for the Mother Tongue

The IB MYP programme at Assumption school supports language diversity for students who do not speak English or French as their mother tongue with a variety of heritage language courses. Assumption learners utilize the Board's International Heritage Language courses in order to refine and maintain their mother tongue. The following languages are offered: Arabic, Italian, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Croatian, Spanish and Polish.

When necessary, we use the Board's translation services to communicate with parents whose first language is not English or French. A SWIS (*Settlement Worker In Schools*) worker is used to communicate in the parent/guardian's mother tongue to disseminate school community information.

Language & Literacy Support at ACS:

ACS promotes student literacy for life-long learning. Skills and knowledge in reading, writing, speaking, listening, representing, and viewing empowers learners to interact with a wide range of texts, developing literacy skills across the MYP curriculum and building a foundation to achieve life-long literacy habits.

These practices are in place to ensure inclusivity and equity to the IB MYP programme. The Board does offer English Language Learner classes but not specific to the Assumption IB MYP programme. All MYP students receive literacy strategies across the curriculum.

The Head of School communicates to MYP teachers and the ESL teacher the names of any incoming students who are identified as English Language Learners. Professional development for teachers is provided at the school, department and Board level as well as official IB training.

Once students are identified needing supports, the following supports are provided:

- Dedicated Literacy Support Teacher
- Practice literacy tests
- Scheduled Literacy tasks in and out of the classroom
- Language specialist teachers

Communication

The IB language policy will be posted on our school website and is available in print format to anyone who requests it.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 5 years by a committee consisting of the IB MYP Coordinator as well as the Head of School and respective MYP teachers.

Documents in effect:

Our language policy was developed using the *Guidelines for developing a school language policy, April 2008* in conjunction with *W.E.C.D.S.B. policies and procedures*, found at www.catholicboard.ca.

