

# **Iman Academy Southwest**

## **LANGUAGE POLICY**

**At Iman Academy Southwest language is the foundation of learning throughout the curriculum. Through language one is able to form his or her own identity, explore their environment, solve problems and influence the thinking of others.**

**At Iman Academy Southwest, all students experience an enriched language program in which English is the primary language of instruction, and Arabic is taught as an additional language using the Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) model.**

**At Iman Academy Southwest, we believe that Language is enhanced through reading, writing, listening, speaking, and presenting.**

**We believe students learn best if they are provided with opportunities to...**

- **reflect on their learning and self assess**
- **write across the curriculum**
- **participate in school wide book clubs**
- **serve as announcers on the morning messages/broadcasts to express their thoughts and ideas**
- **use art to increase vocabulary and develop their language**
- **reflect on language through comparisons with foreign languages**

**We believe students learn best when teachers...**

- **present language through meaningful authentic contexts**
- **integrate language and other subject areas**
- **assist students in discovering language structures**
- **encourage students to reflect on language and develop language awareness (including but not limited to form and audience)**
- **recognize and respect the different ways in which students express themselves, including mother tongue development**
- **provide students with a physical environment, which enriches their language development**
- **support the development of positive attitudes toward improving communication skills and provide a wide range of opportunities to do so**
- **use a wide range of teaching strategies to teach language through a balanced language program that includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing**
- **provide challenges to students allowing them opportunities to reach their full potential**
- **acknowledge differences in developmental stages, learning styles, as well as, previous language experiences**
- **use a wide range of teaching and assessment strategies**

**To facilitate language instruction teachers will...**

- **implement unit plans**
- **serve as facilitators**
- **implement the Literacy Block with legitimacy**
- **implement their transdisciplinary units of study**
- **engage students in cooperative discussions**
- **model effective reading, speaking, writing and listening skills**
- **provide students opportunities to make presentations**
- **provide students opportunities to research**
- **express their feelings and opinions and encourage others to do the same**
- **express needs, feeling, ideas, and opinions using the acquisition of learning a foreign language**
- **encourage parental involvement**
- **publish student work**

### **Mother Tongue Support**

**The students at Iman Academy Southwest are predominately English-speaking in their homes. Nonetheless, Iman Academy Southwest provides support for those students in the following ways:**

- **Library Resources: Currently, Arabic and English, are the only languages represented in our school library.**
- **Diversity of our staff: Several staff members are fluent in other languages such as but not limited to Spanish, French, Malaysian, Indonesian, Chinese, Dutch, Urdu, Turkish, and Hindi.**

### **Learning a Second Language**

**Iman Academy Southwest provides second-language instruction to all students. All students will have the knowledge of and the ability to use two languages, but not all of them to the same extent.**

**The acquisition of language must be seen as a continuum along which each individual student progresses at his/her own speed.**

## **Language Development and the Student Profile**

In line with the PYP, the language program at Iman Academy Southwest not only helps students gain an instrumental means of communication, it helps them develop the cognitive, emotional, and attitudinal skills which promote a well-balanced and holistic education. We strive for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to be:

**Inquirer:** They use language to acquire information and to make sense of the world around them.

**Thinker:** They are able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and succinctly.

**Communicator:** They are competent users of oral and written language in a variety of situations. They listen attentively and pay attention to detail. They speak confidently and clearly. They read fluently with good comprehension. They write clearly, concisely, accurately and in a style appropriate for the purpose.

**Risk taker:** They are willing to attempt to read, write or speak in situations where they may not feel totally confident.

**Knowledgeable:** They have acquired the vocabulary and understanding to discuss literacy styles.

**Principled:** They are aware that language is powerful and that it can have a profound effect, thus it must be used responsibly

**Caring:** They show caring in their use of language and are aware of how the use of language can affect others.

**Open-minded:** They respect differences and similarities between languages, dialects, and personal communication skills.

**Well-balanced:** They can express themselves orally as well as in writing and find a balance between listening and speaking in communicating with others.

**Reflective:** They reflect on their language usage and development and consciously work at improving their language proficiency.

We believe that through an exploration of language, students become independent thinkers, responsible world citizens, and excellent communicators in a multilingual world.

In practice, all teachers are language teachers. Therefore, Iman Academy Southwest 's teaching and learning is driven by the idea that through language instruction students develop intercultural awareness and new perspectives. At Iman Academy Southwest, students enter a culture of curiosity where there is an appreciation of the richness of the world's diversity.