



ADMS Language Policy

Introduction

The learning of languages at Alice Deal takes place in several contexts. The primary emphasis is on the offering of Language Acquisition to all students. All students are enrolled in an English Literature Arts course to further their literacy skills in the language of instruction.

Philosophy for Language Policy

The goal at Alice Deal Middle School is to develop students who are equipped with the skills necessary to become global citizens. Here at Alice Deal Middle School we believe that every teacher is a language teacher tasked with developing students in the areas of reading, listening, oral and written language in both English, the instructional language of the school, and a second language is key to developing international and multicultural understanding.

Language of the Host Country/Language and Literature

The language of the host country, United States of America, is English. English is the language of instruction. All classes are conducted in English. English is also the Language and literature course for all students attending Deal. All multilingual learners are enrolled in classes to support their development in the use of the English language, and later, mainstreamed into regular classroom settings when they demonstrate mastery.

For our students who are native Spanish speakers, there is an option to take Spanish Humanities. Spanish Humanities uses the IB processes to create units around language, literature, and history of Spanish speaking countries.

Language Acquisition

Students entering Deal are offered three distinct languages to choose from: Spanish, French, and Mandarin Chinese. Upon entry to Deal, students have the opportunity to pick from the offered languages. Students take their chosen language for all three years of the programme. All students are enrolled in a full-year Language Acquisition course unless their schedule or status (e.g. student has an Individualized Education Plan that mandates a different class) does not allow this.

In MYP year 1, students take a phase one, or “Emergent” level course. In MYP year 2, students are still “Emergent”, but have progressed to phase 2. In year 3 of the MYP program at Deal, students’ progress to phase 3 and sometimes 4, or “Capable,” of the same language for the duration of the program. New students at MYP year 2 will choose their language of study for the duration of the program.

Multilingual Learners

The level of support for Multilingual learners is determined by an assessment given by the District’s Language Acquisition Division. Multilingual learners at Deal receive classroom instruction in a



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Multilingual learners “resource” setting as well as the non-multilingual learners classrooms. Deal’s Multilingual learners program works diligently to improve students’ skills in four language domains: Speaking, Listening, Writing, and Reading. Deal’s Multilingual learners program also ensures that students do not fall behind in learning the required content from their other classes by providing a co-teaching model in the other required content. The Multilingual learner teachers use the IB unit process to create engaging and motivating lessons in their “resource” settings, while at the same time supporting the integration of Multilingual learner supports in units developed in the non-Multilingual learner settings.

Spanish Humanities is a course offered to our Multilingual learners who are native Spanish speakers. This course uses the IB planning process to mirror skills Multilingual students are learning in their resource or Language and Literature class.

Home Language Support

The Deal community supports, respects, and celebrates the home language and culture of all students. Students who are native Spanish speakers are placed in our Spanish Humanities class. Deal as well and the school District provides Multilingual learner and their parent/guardians with information in their home language as well as translators when necessary. The media center offers resources from other nations and in other languages for our students who speak other languages.

Rights and Responsibilities

As described above, it is the entire community’s responsibility for students’ language skills and academic success.

At Alice Deal, teachers:

- Use students’ speaking, listening, writing, and reading goals to differentiate instruction
- Use the Language Acquisition guide to plan, teach, and assess students in our World Language programme
- Use the language line, when applicable, when communicating with parents

At Alice Deal, students:

- Participate in learning activities in both a resource and general education setting
- Participate in the STAMP exam upon completion of the world language programme
- Participate in the ACCESS exam each year.

At Alice Deal, parents/guardians:

- Monitor student progress and communicate with teachers.

Alice Deal Middle School Language policy as a part of DCPS

As a District of Columbia Public School, Alice Deal follows and prescribes to the District of Columbia language responsibilities and requirements. More information about the District of Columbia approach to language instruction can be found here: [Supports for English Learners \(ELs\) | dcps](#)