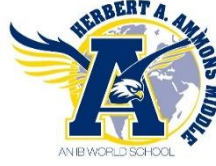


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# LANGUAGE POLICY



## Herbert A. Ammons Middle School International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program

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### School Profile

Herbert A. Ammons Middle School is a fully authorized International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP) school serving approximately 1,200 students in grades 6-8. Our student body reflects the multicultural diversity of Miami-Dade County, with representation from over 30 countries and languages, including Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Creole, Spanish, and French. The school's mission is to produce responsible global citizens who exemplify the IB Learner Profile and engage with the world through intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development.

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### Philosophy

Language is central to all learning and the heart of intercultural understanding. At Ammons, all teachers are language teachers, committed to incorporating language instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening across disciplines. Language learning fosters holistic development, builds student identity, and prepares learners to succeed in a global society.

Aligned with the IB mission, we aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring individuals who contribute to a better and more peaceful world through intercultural respect.

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### Language Goals

At Ammons Middle School, language study aims to:

- Develop multilingual proficiency and intercultural understanding.
  - Support mother tongue development and promote family involvement.
  - Foster academic success through literacy in multiple languages.
  - Encourage ethical use of technology and digital tools in language acquisition.
  - Build responsible global citizens who value cultural diversity.
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## **Policy Framework**

### **1. Primary Language of Instruction**

English is the primary language of instruction. Students take Language & Literature courses, designed to enhance reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Instruction is differentiated by level (regular, advanced, gifted, SPED, and ESOL) based on teacher recommendations and standardized assessment scores.

#### **Support for Language Proficiency:**

- Intensive reading classes address specific skill gaps for students scoring below proficiency.
- Technology tools, such as the iReady platform, supplement instruction to improve literacy.

Teachers align district objectives with IB MYP criteria and use data from assessments to tailor instruction to individual needs.

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### **2. Language Acquisition**

Ammons Middle School offers French and Spanish, with distinct tracks for native and non-native speakers. Language Acquisition courses meet on alternating days for 110 minutes per session.

#### **Tracks and Opportunities:**

- **Native Spanish Track:** Advanced students' progress to take the AP Spanish Language exam in grade 8.
- **Non-Native Spanish and French Tracks:** Students build proficiency through scaffolded instruction and immersive learning opportunities.

Language learning resources include access to:

- The school library and district resources.
  - Miami-Dade Public Library System collections.
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### **3. Support for Mother Tongue Development**

Ammons recognizes the value of maintaining and developing students' mother tongues. To support this:

- The Media Center provides resources in English, Spanish, and French, with plans to expand access to additional languages.
- Students are encouraged to use their home languages in cultural activities, presentations, and interdisciplinary projects.
- Family workshops and community partnerships promote home language development and multilingualism.

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#### 4. Integration of Technology and Digital Tools

Digital tools, including translation apps, grammar checkers, and databases, are integrated into language instruction. Guidelines ensure ethical use, emphasizing their role as supplemental tools to authentic language practice.

- Students learn information literacy skills, including avoiding plagiarism, through workshops tied to the Academic Honesty Policy.
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#### 5. Language Across the Curriculum

The philosophy that "all teachers are language teachers" is reinforced through:

- Vocabulary building and language-sensitive assessments across all subjects.
  - Collaboration on interdisciplinary projects that incorporate language learning objectives.
  - Teacher training on strategies to embed language instruction into all content areas.
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#### 6. Interdisciplinary Language Learning

Interdisciplinary units connect language learning to real-world contexts. For example:

- Students create brochures in Social Studies, write reports in Science, and perform dialogues in the Arts, applying language skills authentically.
  - Units integrate IB global contexts and key concepts, fostering deeper learning.
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#### 7. Cultural Engagement

Ammons promotes intercultural awareness through school-wide activities, including:

- Spanish Club, French Circle, and additional language clubs as demand arises.
  - Events like the **International Mercado**, cultural assemblies, and celebrations of languages represented in the school community.
  - Field trips, guest speakers, and community partnerships showcasing diverse cultures and languages.
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#### 8. Media Center and Resources

The Media Center serves as a hub for language resources, offering:

- Books, e-books, and digital databases in English, Spanish, French, and other languages.
  - Thirty-two desktop computers and Wi-Fi access for research and independent learning.
  - Support for multilingual projects, including collaboration with local libraries.
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## **9. Language Proficiency Tracking**

Language proficiency is monitored through a structured system that includes:

- Placement assessments at entry to determine language track.
  - Regular evaluations to track progress and identify support needs.
  - Opportunities for advanced students to access enrichment activities and assessments.
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## **10. Parental and Community Involvement**

Families and community partners are integral to supporting language development. Ammons engages parents through:

- Workshops and informational sessions about the Language Policy.
  - Events showcasing students' language achievements.
  - Partnerships with organizations like the Miami-Dade Public Library and cultural institutions.
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## **11. Communication and Accessibility**

To ensure inclusivity and awareness, the Language Policy is shared through:

- Accessible translations for parents and students.
  - Orientation sessions and ongoing communication.
  - Staff professional development on implementing the policy effectively.
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## **Policy Review**

This policy is reviewed every three years to ensure alignment with IB standards, district requirements, and the evolving needs of the school community.