



JEWETT MIDDLE ACADEMY MAGNET

An IB World School

Language Policy



English Language Learners (ELL)

ELL students at Jewett Middle Academy Magnet receive daily English language instruction from a regular education teacher. Even though these students are not part of a pull-out program, teachers are still required to implement the state-mandated ELL strategies in classroom instruction.

Most students are already identified once they reach middle school. The exceptions are those students enrolling with us from out of state or private school; of course, these students can be referred for placement into ELL at any time. Our School Counselors monitor their academic progress throughout the year. If there are concerns, an ELL Committee meeting is held to determine further academic placement or additional accommodations. Students in the ELL program must be tested yearly until the student tests out. The CELLA test is used as the annual assessment. This test is administered between February and March. The ultimate goal is to meet the academic, social, and cultural needs of all our students.

Language Acquisition Classes

Within the Middle Years Programme, students will read a variety of texts including narrative, informational, and argumentative. Through reading instruction, students will locate, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to create new knowledge. Another critical aspect language instruction is the acquisition and application of listening and speaking skills in order to enhance comprehension and communication.

In Language Acquisition, students are introduced to the language and the cultural aspects of each language offered at Jewett Middle Academy: English and Spanish. Learning the culture is valued equally with learning the language. Students are empowered to develop both their first language, Mother tongue, as well as an additional languages and, to understand the many forms on non-verbal communication.

The structure of instruction for Spanish begins in sixth grade, instruction is differentiated to support individual levels of understanding within the language. In addition, teachers will provide authentic opportunities, such as guest speakers, activities and translation, to use the languages.



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Professional Development for Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff work to understand the cultures of our students and the cultures of the world around us.

Professional development for teachers and staff is an integral part of language learning. Staff members attend conferences and workshops, including appropriate IB workshops, to increase their knowledge of language development. We encourage and support teachers to utilize peer coaching and observation. Membership in professional organizations is encouraged and supported. Reading materials, that reflect our beliefs, will be purchased for our professional library which is available to both staff and parents.

Resources

Jewett Middle Academy firmly believes that every child should be able to see his or his face within the pages of a book. We strive to create a media collection that represents a broad range of backgrounds, lifestyles, and points of view. Books not written in English language are shelved separately within the media center for ease of access. Media displays help build excitement and understanding of concepts being explored throughout the curriculum. Students have opportunities, in all of their classes, to study various cultures through research projects, international festivals and interdisciplinary learning activities.

Beyond our own Media Center our community provides multiple resources like cultural museums and events, and take full advantage of the resources that are readily available, while our municipal library provides a wide and impressive variety of shared print and electronic resources to students, teachers, staff, and parents within the district.