

Manor View Language Policy (Updated March 2017)

Philosophy of Language

Language is a touchstone for all we do at Manor View Elementary School; it is the medium by which we construct meaning of the world around us. Language is taught through context where new information is related to existing knowledge. It is through language that our students build critical thinking, communication and social skills. At Manor View, language skill areas of listening, reading, speaking and writing are embraced in every classroom. All teachers are language teachers.

Manor View Elementary School's mission seeks to encourage international-mindedness and life-long learning. In order to do so, the MVES staff is dedicated to: the development of English language skills, the examination of cultures other than our own, and acquiring language skills in a second language. At Manor View we believe in the value of learning a second language. Students in the 21st century must learn to adapt to their ever-changing environments and be productive in the global context. Second language exposure and acquisition gives a student intellectual advantages as well as providing an avenue for deepening intercultural understanding and respect.

Purpose of Language Policy

- Outline our common purpose as language speakers and teachers.
- Provide a foundation for whole school second language program in Mandarin.
- Meet the standards of an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Primary Years Programme (PYP).

School Language Practices

English is the primary language of instruction at Manor View Elementary School. Language learning is supported in all grades offered, 1-5. The classroom teachers at Manor View support language development through the following practices:

- Fostering communication and social skills within the classroom
- Modeling effective communication, choosing words carefully and purposefully
- Vocabulary instruction and development in content-specific areas
- Growing fluent readers; reading to and with students
- Encouraging students to be lifelong readers and language learners
- Creating a print-rich environment with relevant and age appropriate literacy materials
- Interpreting different types of literature and offering a rich literature selection
- Encouraging diverse communication styles

- Promoting listening skills and public speaking skills
- Doing a variety of writing and sharing that is formal, informal and process-focused
- Teaching spelling patterns and rules
- Questioning; encouraging exploration of questions and ideas
- Being open and welcoming to other languages spoken in the school
- Using other non-English languages when appropriate in songs, art forms, games
- Encouraging the development of language b, Mandarin, in World Culture Class, work with small groups in class, access to Rosetta Stone software, and Mandarin books and online websites

Mandarin Chinese is our additional language, language b, offered to all students in grades 1-5. Our goals for our Mandarin program are that all students at Manor View are provided the opportunity to: develop a foundation for Mandarin language; cultivate an appreciation for the Chinese culture and heritage; and to embrace language learning as fun and relevant.

Mandarin language and culture is provided by a certificated teacher whose first language is Mandarin. The Mandarin teacher provides age-appropriate language curriculum to Manor View Students that builds language skills at least one time a week and where possible, develops vocabulary supporting each grade level's Programme of Inquiry (POI).

Manor View's Media Center provides resources and support for learning about China and Mandarin language learning. Signage within the school feature Mandarin translations.

As a school community, we seek opportunities to expose students to Mandarin culture through assemblies and field trips. The Middle School and High School that Manor View feeds into have strong connections to China through sister schools and also have Mandarin language programs.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Support

Manor View supports students who do not speak English as a first language through ESOL support. Currently, English Language Learners (ELL) represent less than 5% of the MVES student population. An ESOL support teacher works directly with ELL students through individual teaching time. The ESOL teacher communicates, as needed, with classroom teachers regarding comprehension strategies for ELL students and ELL student progress. Informally, mother tongue language sharing within all MVES classrooms is welcomed and encouraged.

Additional Language Offerings

Manor View is committed to raising international-mindedness and access to foreign languages. Manor View serves military families that come to Fort Meade from all of over the country and posts abroad. The community appreciates the importance of language learning. Afterschool

language club is offered within the school year for Mandarin. Parents are given the opportunity to lead and or join clubs with the students.

Roles and Responsibilities

All teachers at Manor View support English language development through the adoption of the above practices in their classrooms. MVES teachers reinforce school-wide Mandarin activities and where applicable use Chinese culture as a focus for inquiries and to enrich their grade level's POI.

The Manor View Media Center and Media Specialist is committed to providing resources to support the language learning and Chinese culture research of the school community. Rosetta Stone software is available in the computer lab, and all students, families, and staff have access to Rosetta Stone online at no cost through the Anne Arundel County Library system. One teacher is designated as the Rosetta Stone lead and the PYP Coordinator assists as requested.

The Manor View Mandarin teacher provides developmentally appropriate language instruction to grades 1-5. The Mandarin teacher is instrumental in bringing Mandarin to life through projects and inquiry and will help to translate school information into Mandarin. The MVES PYP Coordinator and Mandarin teacher will update the parent community on our Mandarin learning activities via the school's regular MVES newsletters.

The PYP Coordinator communicates any language or cultural enrichment opportunities that come about in our local area. She/he works with other IB schools offering Mandarin and work closely with the Manor View Mandarin teacher and AACPS to improve access to language opportunities. The PYP coordinator will assist in identifying appropriate professional development opportunities arise for PYP and Mandarin resource staff.

The school community and leadership of Manor View are committed to cultivating our language program with all members of the school community. The Language Policy will be reviewed/revised by the School's leadership team on a bi-annual basis.