

# Caleb Greenwood Language Policy

# **Caleb Greenwood Language Policy Statement**

We respect and honor that language reflects individual and cultural beliefs, attitudes and perspectives, and thus are committed to multilingualism as means of affirming identity and developing international-mindedness. By immersing students in the interplay between learning language, learning through language and learning about languages, our students learn to become open-minded, caring communicators and inquirers who express themselves "confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways." To this end, Caleb Greenwood is committed to empowering our students to find their voice in building a better and more peaceful world.

# Caleb Greenwood's Language Policy Guidelines

## • All teachers are language teachers responsible for facilitating communication

- Every teacher is encouraged to promote effective communication skills across subjects.
- Teachers incorporate language development strategies in their instructional practice.
- Professional development opportunities are provided to enhance teachers' language instruction skills.
- School is committed to providing a range of physical and virtual resources to support students in their language learning journey.

### • Students learn at least one language in addition to their home language

- A comprehensive language program is designed to ensure students acquire proficiency in a language in addition to their home language.
- Students in grades 4th 6th receive 90 minutes of Spanish instruction per week; students in grades 1st - 3rd receive 45 minutes of Spanish instruction per week, and Kindergarten students receive a half hour of Spanish instruction per week.
- Teachers reinforce and support Spanish learning in their respective classrooms.
- Spanish instruction fosters a positive learning environment that values linguistic diversity and promotes intercultural understanding.

# • Support for the development and maintenance of home language

- The school acknowledges the importance of home language as a vital aspect of a student's cultural identity.
- School and district policies and resources support students in maintaining and developing proficiency in their home languages.
- Collaborative partnerships are encouraged with families and communities to sustain and celebrate diverse languages and cultures.

# • Inclusion and equity of access

- The language policy and district mandates ensure that all students have equal opportunities to access language learning resources and support.
- Inclusive strategies address the diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds of students.
- Additional support is provided to students with specific language learning needs to ensure their academic success.



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#### • Support for multilingualism

- The school fosters an environment that celebrates and values multilingualism as a valuable asset.
- Students have opportunities to practice and apply their language skills in authentic contexts.
- Language learning resources, materials, and technologies are accessible to promote multilingualism.

#### • Respect and promotion of the language of the wider community

- The school acknowledges the importance of the language(s) spoken within the local community.
- Efforts are made to integrate community languages into the curriculum and school activities.
- Collaborations with local community organizations and individuals are encouraged to promote language diversity.

### • Involvement of parents in language profile and development

- Parents are recognized as essential partners in their child's language development.
- Regular communication and district consultation channels are established to involve parents in the planning and evaluation of language programs.
- District resources and workshops are provided to parents to support their engagement in their child's multilingual education.

### • Consideration of sociocultural circumstances

- The language policy acknowledges the sociocultural circumstances of the school and its community.
- School and district policies take into account the cultural diversity and unique needs of the student population.
- Culturally responsive and relevant approaches are employed to ensure a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

By implementing this language policy and the relevant district mandates, Caleb Greenwood aims to create a dynamic and inclusive educational community that values and promotes multilingualism, cultural diversity, and the development of internationally minded individuals.

Caleb Greenwood Language Policy collaboratively created 2015, revised 2018, 2023

Parent and Student Rights Handbook. Sacramento City Unified School District. (revised annually). https://www.scusd.edu/parent-and-student-rights-handbook