

CAISL is
a student-centered
educational community
in which we challenge ourselves
and each other
to do our best and to make positive
contributions to our diverse and
ever-changing world.

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

CAISL
PUBLICATIONS
2019-2020

Last revision: 2-Aug-2018

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY:

CAISL is a student-centered educational community in which we challenge ourselves and each other to do our best and to make positive contributions to our diverse and ever-changing world.

This mission statement is the foundation for our language policy. As a student-centered school, we value the diversity of our student body. This includes the wide range of languages and linguistic capabilities of our multi-national student body. While English is the language of instruction, respect for and curiosity about other cultures and languages are encouraged as a part of lifelong learning and as a response to our diverse and ever changing world.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of LANGUAGES@CAISL is to explain the philosophy of language use and learning at CAISL, the procedures currently in place, and how both are driven by our mission statement. It is a working document that will be regularly reviewed and revised.

LANGUAGES
AT CAISL



BELIEFS:

- CAISL is student-centered and aims to meet the needs of our learners by providing them with appropriate language support to access the curriculum.
- Developing literacy in one's home language is essential.
- Learning a new language and about other cultures promotes global citizenship.
- Language teaching is the responsibility of all faculty.
- A caring and safe environment supports language acquisition.
- Language acquisition is an essential part of life-long learning.
- CAISL Student and Faculty Profile:
 - More than 75% of our student body has a mother tongue other than English. Our students represent on average 40 countries. All of our faculty and educational administration speak English, and many are fluent in or have another language as their mother tongue.

PROCEDURES:

English is the medium of instruction in all classes except Portuguese as a Native Language (PNL) and other World Language Classes (currently Portuguese, French, Chinese, and Spanish) with the exception of the Early Childhood 3 and 4-Year-Old Program where students receive bilingual Portuguese/English instruction in class as well as a bilingual library class.

Teachers are expected to speak to students in the language in which they teach them at all times, in and out of class with the obvious exception being in the first year of a foreign language class (Portuguese, French, Chinese, or Spanish as a Foreign Language).

Other school personnel are expected to speak to students in English except when trying to help a student in physical or emotional distress, in which case the member of staff will help the child in the child's best language, if he/she knows it.

Teachers will ensure that students speak to each other in class in the language in which the class is taught. Rare exceptions would be the first semester a student is in a mainstream class, when a classmate may be allowed to provide brief explanations of difficult concepts in the student's best language.

No restrictions exist on languages used by students out of class, in social times.

Written school communications are delivered in American Standard English.

Depending on the nature of the written school communication and the needs of the various linguistic groups, translation of a limited number of documents may be provided.

As an American school, CAISL teachers use American Standard English in their teaching of Language Arts.

As an international school, CAISL teachers accept as correct the other standard forms of English which the students may have learned.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESL)

Language support is available from an ESL specialist who will target specific language for acquisition, scaffold work, and support students as needed. Students will receive this support in a variety of ways including small group work, immersion, sheltered classes when appropriate, or monitoring. Students identified with a mother tongue other than English, and without formal education in an English-speaking school, will be tested prior to admission for Grades 9-12. For admission to Grade 9, a student must have conversational proficiency. For promotion to or admission to Grade 10, a student must demonstrate a command of English which indicates that a year of specialized instruction at CAISL will result in readiness for Grade 11. ESL Teachers will regularly monitor student progress with English using formative achievement tests such as the WIDA.

Students new to English will receive direct ESL support and adapted grading and alternative assignments in Science and Social Studies. ESL students in grades 1-8 will receive reports on their achievement levels for their language progress in the Foundations of English program based on their individual language goals determined by the ESL teacher in conjunction with the language arts teacher. This will be the program for students acquiring English until such time as they are able to meet the requirements of grade-level English Language Arts.





Portuguese as a Native Language (PNL) and Portuguese as a Foreign Language (PFL)

The Early Childhood 3 and 4-Year-Old Program is bilingual for all subjects, with two teachers, one of whom is a speaker of English and the other a speaker of Portuguese, although often both teachers are bilingual.

Students in Kindergarten also receive Portuguese instruction in a combined program which includes both those new to Portuguese and those fluent in Portuguese.

Students in Grades 1 through 9 are required to take either PNL or PFL unless they are Beginners in both Portuguese AND English, in which case they will be scheduled only for the Foundations of English program until such time as they can reasonably be expected to begin learning another language.

PNL and PFL are offered in Grades 1 through 12.

PNL follows the Ministry of Education program adapted for the needs of CAISL students.

PFL comprises three levels, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced, with students in combined-grade classes depending on the section of the school.

After completing Advanced PFL, a student may move to Portuguese as a Native Language (PNL) with a transitional curriculum and assessment for the first year.



OTHER WORLD LANGUAGES

Elective languages currently offered in the Secondary School during the school day are Chinese, French, and Spanish (beginning at Grade 7).

There are currently no elective language courses offered earlier than Grade 7.

IBDP students may take their mother tongue language as independent study with an outside tutor. Students need to pay for their own outside tutor although time is allotted for the course during the school day.