



WARREN T. JACKSON IB PYP LANGUAGE POLICY 2018-2019



MISSION STATEMENT

Through a caring community, our goal at Warren T Jackson Elementary School is to challenge and prepare students to be independent thinkers, kind citizens, and passionate learners who are ready to change the world.

PHILOSOPHY

At Warren T. Jackson Elementary, we recognize that language is central to learning communication, expression, and identity. We believe that language connects us with others globally and promotes multi-cultural understanding. Therefore, all members of the Jackson community are language teachers and learners. At the heart of our language instruction, we believe that instruction should motivate students to learn and expand on new ideas for both pleasure and purpose. As students move throughout their years at Warren T. Jackson, they will explore concepts, global issues, themes, and learner profiles that authentically link to our Primary Years Program of Inquiry.

LANDSCAPE

Warren T. Jackson has approximately 705 students ranging from four to eleven years old. Asian, Black, Multi-Racial, Pacific Islanders, White, and Hispanic ethnicities/races are represented including 13 world languages within the student body of Jackson. Within our teaching staff, 4 world languages are represented.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PRACTICES

English is the language of instruction at Warren T. Jackson for all students. Features of our language curriculum include reading, writing, grammar, phonics, word study, handwriting, research, and communication skills. We utilize whole group, small group, independent practice, and collaborative practice within our language instruction. We explicitly dedicate 90-120 minutes for our language curriculum. However, our curriculum is transdisciplinary in nature and language is taught within other content areas. The Units of Inquiry include reading and writing standard, when authentic connections are made.

The PYP has identified three strands of language that are learned throughout the curriculum: oral language, visual language, and written language. Warren T. Jackson supports the development of these strands in the following ways:

Oral Language- Listening and Speaking

- Purposeful talk with members of the learning community
- Asking and answering questions throughout instruction and inquiry
- Listening to varying perspectives and opinions
- Listening for purpose and understanding
- Responding by explaining one's own perspective and thinking
- Oral presentations of work

Visual Language- Viewing and Presenting

- Utilizing multimedia and technology for expression, interpretation, and evaluation through inquiry and instruction.
- Creating visual products to show evidence of learning
- Presenting products to members of the learning community

Written Language- Reading and Writing

- Whole group and small group reading and writing instruction
- Collaborative and independent practice of skills
- Reading for purpose and pleasure
- Authentic writing for multiple purposes
- Explicit instruction of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, Greek and Latin roots, fluency, and comprehension.

WORLD LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PRACTICES

Currently, Warren T. Jackson offers both Spanish and French language programs to expose students to a second language, promote international mindedness, and develop cultural awareness. Prior to 2018-2019 school year, French was the only offered secondary language program at Jackson. However, based on the changing needs and wants of our school community, Spanish was introduced to our program and French will be phased out by the 2021-2022 school year.

- Currently, Kindergarten and 1st grade students receive instruction in Spanish from a highly qualified bilingual teacher for 45 minutes a week.
- Ours 2nd-5th grade students receive instruction in French from a highly qualified bilingual teacher for 45 minutes twice a week. Our 2021-2022 class will be the last class that will receive French as a second language.
- Our two foreign language instructors authentically link to grade level units of inquiry, when applicable, and foreign language is supported in the classroom through labeling, using key phrases, and literature connections.
- Our foreign language program utilizes Georgia Elementary Foreign Language Standards for Second Language instruction, which is based on the foreign language Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. The teachers use the "Images" and "Visages" book series published by Addison Wesley to support French instruction. For Spanish instruction the teachers use an online curriculum, "Risas y Sonrisas"

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKER OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) SUPPORT

Approximately 6% of our student body receives ESOL services. Jackson has one full time ESOL Lead Teacher and 10 certified ESOL classroom teachers. At the beginning of each school year, Jackson provides a Home Language Survey for all students, which is kept in students' public record folders. If students speak a language other than English, the listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing portions of the WIDA Access Placement Test will be administered. The students will receive ESOL services if his/her English proficiency level is less than 5.0 on this test.

The ESOL Lead Teacher collaborates and co-teaches with general classroom teachers daily, providing ESOL students with additional support and small group instruction within their classroom. Kindergarten through third grade ESOL students receive a 45-minute ESOL segment daily. Fourth and fifth grade ESOL students receive a minimum of one 50-minute daily segment. For students who have exited ESOL or do not qualify for service, the ESOL Lead Teacher continues to consult and offer support, for 2 years following exit, to teachers to ensure that the language needs of these students are supported.

MOTHER TONGUE SUPPORT

Although English is our language of instruction, we believe it is imperative that children preserve and deepen their understanding of their mother tongue for the development of higher-order cognitive skills and for the transmission of cultural identity. Mother tongue languages are supported at Jackson Elementary through:

- ESOL certified teachers at each grade level
- Multilingual staff members who communicate with parents and students in mother tongue languages
- Classroom technology (Google Translate and LexiaCore)
- Library resources in mother tongue and bilingual languages
- District and school information and publications in mother tongue languages.
- District provided translator for parent-teacher conferences, SST and IEP meetings, school and classroom documents, and phone calls.

LANGUAGE POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be formally reviewed, as needed, by Warren T. Jackson Elementary staff and community stakeholders to adapt to changing best practices, changes in the Primary Years Program, and changes in the needs of our community. The effectiveness of this policy will be reflected in our language achievement data and feedback from stakeholders. We welcome comments and recommendations on this policy at any time.