



Language Policy MYP & PYP

Philosophy

Global Academy of Phoenix (GAP) serves a diverse population of students with diverse language needs. GAP welcomes all students and strives to create a learning environment that embraces diverse language backgrounds while preparing students to succeed in the 21st century. All teachers at Global Academy of Phoenix are responsible for language instruction. In all classes, students read, write, speak, view, and listen in a variety of ways and for a variety of purposes. These skills are the crux of the academic standards that our curriculum is aligned to.

The language of instruction at GAP is English. One exception to this is the world language instruction in Spanish for grades K-8. At Global Academy of Phoenix, the students explore the many ways language is used to communicate ideas, develop an inter-cultural awareness, and become global citizens. Language and Literature and World Language Acquisition are core academic classes at GAP. Through the study of language, students will come to know that every language has its own unique form, and they will make connections to another culture while developing a deeper understanding of their own.

Language A: Language and Literature

As stated, GAP believes that all teachers are language teachers, but Global Academy of Phoenix students participate in specific language instruction daily. A portion of the instructional time is dedicated to English Language Arts, Reading, and Literature. Time is spent each day with a focus on ELA and reading skills, including analyzing text, producing text, and using the English language to communicate effectively as well as understand competently.

Students explore a variety of texts including expository, argument, and narrative. The instructional strategies used at GAP include, but are not limited to: inquiry-based, direct

instruction, close reading, literature studies, problem based/holistic learning, and the use of formative assessments to guide the direction of instruction. Students read high quality, culturally diverse literature both independently and as a class. They analyze the reading and practice the skills through whole group discussions, small group practice, and Socratic seminars; they answer text-dependent questions and cite their evidence. Students produce verbal and written responses to real world issues or events as well as in response to their reading. They also use citations when applicable.

Language B: World Languages (Spanish)

At Global Academy of Phoenix (GAP), world language instruction is dedicated toward language acquisition. GAP's World Language class supports students in the acquisition of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Spanish.

Through language courses, students will also experience culture. Providing students with language proficiency will help them begin to understand how language provides a window into another culture. By being bilingual, students will be more balanced, open-minded, and better communicators in their global community.

Spanish was chosen because of the high demand in our area. Being knowledgeable in the areas of language proficiency and culture will benefit students as they promote to higher learning institutions and enter the workforce. These courses will develop skills in reading and writing comprehension, grammar, vocabulary and oral communication. The language course is structured in phases, and students' levels of proficiency will be monitored and supported through formative assessment and differentiated instruction. Students entering the PYP may enter with zero to very little Spanish language proficiency. Through the five structured PYP phases, students should be prepared to enter the rigorous MYP instructional phases. The six structured MYP phases allow the instructor to differentiate to meet and foster the complex range of language proficiency students will have.

Our IB Certified Language Acquisition Instructor utilizes researched-based Spanish curriculum to provide quality language development. *Calico Spanish* print and digital curriculum provides a foundation for our Primary Years (PYP) students through engaging stories and songs, supplemental resources, and practical Spanish interactions. *Sanderos* print and digital curriculum offers phased practice for students to develop their proficiency in vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills. Both sets of curriculum provide cultural connections for students to expand their international mindedness.

English as a Second Language

Global Academy of Phoenix student population includes those students who are non-native speakers of English. Our goal at GAP is that they become fully integrated in the culture of the school. As students enroll in Global Academy of Phoenix, they are asked to complete a Home Language Survey. Students identified as English Language Learners are evaluated using the AZELLA (Arizona English Language Learner Assessment) to determine their English proficiency level.

Depending on the level at which they demonstrate proficiency, students are taught with exemplary, research based EL support and strategies. The Arizona ELD (English Language Development) standards are taught in conjunction with content standards in both integrated and targeted learning experiences by general education teachers with SEI endorsements.

Teachers work very closely with their colleagues as well as other support professionals to provide the students with subject specific vocabulary and a sense of success. Students receiving support in English development are re-assessed each year to determine both language proficiency, as well as the amount of support necessary.

Home, Family & General Language Development

At GAP we recognize that multilingualism benefits individuals in many ways and that language is a means of affirming and expressing cultural identity and developing international-mindedness. Students at GAP come from a wide range of backgrounds and many of them speak languages other than English at home. GAP instructors provide a wide variety of quality learning experiences in an effort to foster the development of our language of instruction (English), our World Language (Spanish), and the range of home languages. Our PYP instructors embed language practices into transdisciplinary learning, our MYP instructors provide rigorous yet inclusive language learning engagements in every discipline, and our school community celebrates languages and cultures from around the world in both structured and informal events.

Library Media Center

GAP realizes that a quality library media center is crucial to the success of our students. GAP will provide a variety of resources in our language of instruction (English) and our World Language (Spanish). In addition we will provide materials in a variety of languages to foster the development of home and family languages. We envision that our library media center will provide a space that empowers students to develop their discipline skills, their personal interests, and their love of learning.

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References

IB Coordinator Support Materials, 2014 Language Policy for Kyrene Middle School *From Principles to Practice*