

IB LANGUAGE POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Fairmont Historic Anaheim Campus is to balance challenge and support, and to value learning that happens in and out of our classrooms in order to build a durable foundation for young people's ongoing inquiry, learning and global-mindedness.

HISTORIC ANAHEIM CAMPUS' MISSION STATEMENT

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LANGUAGE PHILOSOPHY

Language is an essential tool for teaching and learning; therefore, all teachers at Fairmont Schools are language teachers. Although English is the language of instruction, all languages are respected. Students are expected to become proficient in the language of the home country (English), and the acquisition of another language (Spanish/Mandarin) is offered as an option. Many Fairmont families speak languages other than English at home and many students attend language classes outside of school. Such linguistic diversity in our community is a strength.

LANGUAGE PROFILE

Fairmont Schools has a diverse population and language needs.

- There is a coherent and consistent approach towards the development of language throughout the school.
- Consistency is expected throughout the PYP and MYP in procedure, expectations, differentiation and assessment.
- Fairmont Historic Anaheim Campus ensures that all students learn at least one language in addition to their home or personal language(s).
 - In the PYP, students receive Spanish instruction once a week taught by a specialist.
 - In MYP Grade 6, all students take both Spanish and Mandarin.
 - In MYP Grades 7–8, students select either Spanish or Mandarin as their primary language acquisition course.
 - Students in the IFC receive targeted English support and may temporarily defer Spanish or Mandarin until ready to join successfully.
- English Language Learners (ELL) students are enrolled in the International Foundation Center (IFC) and, based on language level, which offers a range of classes from sheltered instruction to full immersion.
- Clear expectations exist for and from parents regarding the whole-school language policy, and

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there is a shared understanding that all languages are of value. English is our school's primary language, and all teachers support our students in learning English while also supporting and respecting students' heritage languages and the languages they speak outside instructional time.

- Fairmont also supports students' home languages by encouraging their use as thinking and planning tools in class. Students may use Google Translate as needed, and translators are available for school communication. Families are invited to share their culture and language in classrooms, particularly when connected to holidays or units of inquiry. Schoolwide cultural events such as Lunar New Year and Diwali celebrate the linguistic diversity of our community.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Language development is at the center of all academic learning and is taught through inquiry. Structured, purposeful inquiry is the main approach to teaching and learning language. There is a schoolwide approach to developing listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and presenting skills. Multilingual resources are available, including a diverse language section in our library, supporting both English and home-language development.

ADMISSIONS

Fairmont School accepts students from diverse ethnic, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds at all year levels, class size permitting.

Fairmont Historic Anaheim Campus accepts students with a wide range of English language levels. In addition to teacher recommendations and previous grade/progress reports, Fairmont assesses language level before admission and again for placement once accepted. Entrance ELL testing includes iTEP, a writing sample, and a verbal interview. These results are shared with relevant teachers to support transition.

In the MYP, students in language acquisition are assessed for English proficiency and grouped into one of three phases:

- **International Foundation Center (IFC):** Phase 3 sheltered instruction
- **Direct Entry with Writing Seminar:** Phase 2 with academic writing focus
- **Direct Entry (DE):** Phase 0, fully immersed, with Spanish or Mandarin choice

The IFC program ensures that students entering Fairmont with limited English ability are supported in small groups until they reach a level of proficiency that allows them to participate in classes. Students needing IFC support are excused from MYP language acquisition (Spanish or Mandarin).

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PLACEMENT

Placement is informed by the student learning profile, which includes language background, language expertise, and language needs. A placement test is taken at the start of MYP to determine the appropriate phase and/or course for language acquisition. The same process applies to incoming students. In the MYP, students are placed by grade level with their peers rather than by English proficiency.

ASSESSMENT

Ongoing assessment is an integral part of the language program. Students are assessed in a variety of ways through both formative and summative assessments. Student choice, agency, and reflection are valued in the assessment process.

Assessment for IFC and International Assist/Assist programs occurs three times per year. Students have the opportunity to show progress and, if appropriate, test out. Students who test out of Assist join specialty classes; this does not apply to IFC students.

HERITAGE SPEAKER DEVELOPMENT

Our library includes a section dedicated to resources in the many languages spoken by our community. Fairmont Historic Anaheim Campus is committed to honoring and supporting the languages and cultures represented within our school community. As part of this commitment, the school integrates authentic cultural and linguistic celebrations throughout the year in collaboration with the Parent Association.

Schoolwide programming such as Lunar New Year, Día de los Muertos, and Diwali provides students from Preschool through Grade 8 with meaningful opportunities to engage with the languages, stories, traditions, and perspectives of our diverse community. These experiences strengthen intercultural understanding and affirm the value of maintaining and celebrating students' home and personal languages.

These consistent practices ensure that the cultures and languages of our community are honored, visible, and connected to student learning across the school.

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

PYP

- Authentic learning must be appropriate and relevant
- Focus should be on how children best learn – practical, using a variety of strategies
- Linked with and developed through the unit of inquiry
- Reading, writing, listening, speaking, and presenting all need to be covered and linked
- Collaborative planning between class teachers and specialists is essential
- All languages are valued and Fairmont strives to encourage every student to be proficient in two

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MYP

- Students are enrolled in language acquisition and language and literature courses, based on placement assessment. All students take Spanish or Mandarin, with the exception of English language learners in level 3, who take sheltered IFC classes and focus on English.
- There is consistency in how language acquisition and language and literature are taught
- IFC Students must achieve a satisfactory proficiency in order to transfer to another language

IB POLICY REVIEW

The IB Language Policy was revised during preweek in August 2025, by a team including IB PYP and MYP teachers, PYP and MYP coordinators and administration. The revised policies were shared with the faculty and staff in September 2025 for validation and adoption. HAC has committed to reviewing IB policies annually during preweek.