



# Uplift Meridian Preparatory Language Policy

**“The limits of my language are the limits of my world.”**

–Ludwig Wittgenstein

## Vision

To be a collaborative community of educators, families, and scholar inquirers to place scholars on a college-ready path and to develop globally-minded, courageous and compassionate leaders who will be at the helm of their communities.

## Beliefs

We believe that all teachers are teachers of language who promote language growth with our students. We strive to create a multilingual community of respectfully trusting students who love learning while in a multicultural setting. We aim to:

- **Empower students as language owners**
- **Promote the enjoyment and meaning of language via Inquiry**
- **Through the promotion of metacognition students will work to believe in themselves and be language risk takers**

Student Language Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 333/595 English Speakers</li> <li>- 262/595 Spanish Speakers</li> <li>- 262/595 Identified as English Language Learners</li> </ul>
Language of Instruction	<p><b>Identification and Placement of English Language Learners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of English Language Learners- Home Language Survey, Woodcock-Munoz and IPT</li> <li>• Placement: General Education classroom defined by language proficiency or ESL pull-out services</li> <li>• Teacher Observation and judgment</li> <li>• Honor parent requests</li> </ul> <p><b>Fluent English and Native English Learners:</b> English Language Arts and Reading with an emphasis on the district scope and sequence delivered through balanced literacy structures Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)</li> <li>• Using the Units of Inquiry for the vocabulary, comprehension strategies, writing, and oral expression/listening in context</li> <li>• Teach using gradual release</li> </ul> <p><b>English Language Learners:</b> English Language Arts and Reading with an emphasis on language learning through balanced literacy structures and Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)</li> <li>• Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)</li> <li>• Using the Unit of Inquiry to explicitly teach academic - vocabulary, function, forms, as well as the social language rules needed in Linguistic</li> <li>• Teach using gradual release</li> </ul>



## Uplift Meridian Preparatory Language Policy

Mother Tongue Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to native language</li><li>• Promote use of native language in classroom</li><li>• Celebrate culture through literature and classroom experiences</li><li>• Encourage students to be models of mother tongue</li><li>• Differentiates instruction for native speakers to accommodate for the students who have a strong base in their mother tongue</li><li>• Incorporate Spanish in PYP vocabulary, community and classroom activities</li><li>• Invite parents and community members to enter into and be a part of classrooms as readers, writers, and speakers in a variety of languages</li><li>• Write Units of Inquiry to support cultural identities</li><li>• Provide language support for families</li><li>• Translate all documents into mother tongue</li><li>• Communicate in multiple languages (newsletter, web site, phone, messengers)</li><li>• Invite parents into our building for a variety of purposes, e.g. Concilio, Parent University, ViP</li><li>• Support from parent volunteers</li><li>• Library books in mother tongue</li></ul>
Additional Language Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spanish language instruction K-5</li><li>• Support Spanish language development along with cultural awareness in the classroom</li><li>• Incorporate Spanish in all classrooms (including specials)</li><li>• Use environmental print in Spanish</li></ul>
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote all staff as language teachers</li><li>• Build capacity of inquiry-based learning and instruction and the language needed to engage in inquiry</li><li>• Implement SLOP strategies to support language instruction in the classroom</li><li>• Participate in book studies surrounding conceptual learning, inquiry and focused instruction</li><li>• Thinking Maps</li><li>• Collaborate and reflect on language and culture within and among IB schools</li><li>• Develop a continued understanding around ELPS and TELPAS (Performance Indicators) for all teachers</li><li>• Inquire into International-Mindedness</li><li>• Visit IB World Schools</li><li>• Use data to drive language instruction</li><li>• Continue IB training</li></ul>

### Language Policy Review

The Uplift Meridian Preparatory Language Policy will go into effect on August 9, 2016, and will be reviewed annually and when changes are deemed necessary.