



Roberto Clemente Middle School

Language Policy



Roberto Clemente Middle School students speak many languages and come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The staff and students of Roberto Clemente Middle School recognize and celebrate the diversity of our school community. Within this diverse school community, we use language as a tool for communication. Access to learning languages is the gateway to rigorous learning and the appreciation of multiple cultures and perspectives.

It is imperative to implement a language policy which specifies the support for all learners. Roberto Clemente Middle School staff members will foster and maintain a caring environment and continuously build on our tradition of helping families and community members. Family networking groups as well as student/staff mentor opportunities will serve to foster the welcoming school environment. Every student will be provided instructional opportunities that elevate and enhance proficiency in multiple language acquisition. Teachers in all subject areas will facilitate the opportunity for students to share their language and culture as a valuable connection to curricular content.

Roberto Clemente Middle School students will engage in daily opportunities to increase proficiency with the transferral of language, as this is the tool to access learning. All teachers are language teachers and will recognize language as a tool for valuing group identity and cohesiveness. In doing so, staff will model the use of effective language and awareness of the audience, while holding students responsible for the same. Reflection, written and verbal, will provide opportunities for students and staff to identify appropriate use of language in academic and nonacademic settings.

Roberto Clemente Middle School students will be encouraged to study languages other than the language of instruction. Language acquisition is a tool by which students increase cultural proficiency and appreciation of multiple perspectives. Therefore, teachers of all subject areas will design lessons and utilize pedagogical practices that make the *language* that defines their subject area explicit.