

Watkins Mill IB MYP Partnership

Watkins Mill H. S., Neelsville M.S., Montgomery Village M.S.

Language Policy

The Watkins Mill IB MYP Partnership community recognizes that language is central to learning and is essential to communicating one's understanding and to making thinking visible. All teachers and staff view themselves as language teachers with the goal of helping students develop their academic language, an important factor to student success.

Since we prepare our students to be global citizens, all students study a world language: French or Spanish. Our school also caters effectively to the needs of English Language Learners through our successful ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) program. As we help students in the acquisition or learning of English, our school values the rich linguistic backgrounds of our students. We encourage the development and maintenance of the mother tongues of our students. The school boosts language-specific clubs, multimedia resources in several languages in the media center and classrooms.

All staff members remain committed to the language development of our students. To ensure that the current language policy constantly guides our practices, administrators, teachers, librarians, and other school staff attend trainings that address the language development of our students. One such training was about Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) model, which helps educators work effectively with English language learners by making content comprehensible. Our school has a dedicated counselor for our English language learners.

Watkins Mill IB MYP Partnership fosters a welcoming culture and tradition of helping our parents and community members adapt to their new environment. Monthly, the school hosts a Hispanic and French parent workshop. The community group "Identity" also works with our Spanish-speaking students.