

# **Lincoln Elementary Adrian Public School District Language Policy 2013-2014**

## **Mission Statement:**

The Lincoln Elementary School community will enhance, enrich, and broaden the education of every student through local and global awareness. We will work together to develop high achieving life-long learners who welcome others and their differences.

## **Vision Statement:**

Adrian Public Schools is a district where students, parents, educators, and our community collaborate in providing a dynamic, relevant, and rigorous global curriculum in a safe environment that fosters imagination, problem-solving, and innovation to create a better world... one child at a time.

Lincoln will provide meaningful learning for every student, every day. As we move toward an International Baccalaureate program\*, the Lincoln community will be inquiring, knowledgeable and caring people who work together to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. By incorporating inquiry based instruction, we will support our children physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically to become productive world citizens.

\*Lincoln Elementary School is a candidate school for the Primary Years Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. Only schools authorized by the IB organization can offer any of its three academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), or the Diploma Programme. Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

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For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit <http://www.ibo.org>.

## **Belief Statements:**

We are committed to living the IB Learner Profile and demonstrating its attitudes.

We are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure the development of the whole child.

We are committed to helping all children meet the Common Core State Standards.

We are committed to monitoring student progress and helping children achieve success.

## **School Language Philosophy:**

We believe at Lincoln Elementary that all teachers are language instructors. Through language development, students are given the tools and skills to effectively communicate with and interpret the world around them. Lincoln Elementary has created a language program with centers around primarily English native speakers and the introduction of Spanish as a second language. Additionally, Adrian Public Schools has in place a support system for those students whose mother tongue is not English. Instruction is also differentiated to meet the needs of individual students. At Lincoln, we have made the commitment to our students and parents to provide a learning community that supports the development of the mother tongue and to extend their learning with the development of a second language. Language instruction takes place within the strands of written, oral and visual language within our units of inquiry and focusing on listening, speaking, reading, writing, presenting and viewing skills.

## **School Language Assessment**

English is the language of instruction and Spanish is Language B for Lincoln Elementary students. English Language Learners (ELL) and students with disabilities that have Individualized Educational Plans receive additional support to develop their mother tongue with highly qualified certified teachers. This differentiation allows for these students to be valued participants in the classroom by meeting their needs. The ELL teachers identify the ELL students with a home language survey, which is completed every year by parents and guardians. Once these students are identified, comprehensive testing is done to evaluate the needs of the students.

Students are assessed using the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test as an Adrian Public Schools District initiative three times a year. The state of Michigan assesses literacy with the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) starting in third grade. Adrian Public Schools also uses NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Assessment), a national tool for assessment three times a year, for the purpose to track growth in student's literacy skills. Lincoln teachers also use data gathered from formative assessments such as running records and anecdotal notes to track student's literacy skill progress. A writing assessment rubric is also used to check for a student's growth in writing skills. These assessments are outlined in our Lincoln Elementary Assessment policy.

## **Mother-tongue Support**

Adrian Public Schools provides support to students and families whose mother tongue is a language other than English. This support includes ELL instruction, translated materials, translation at conferences and parent meetings, and phone calls. The Media Center also contains books in which support other cultures and heritages of our students. The resources are available to all students and staff.

## Practices

- Lincoln's Media Specialist has made the commitment to enhance our library with a wider range of books reflecting culture and heritage.
- The classrooms at Lincoln are rich with print with labels and signs, and many examples of student written work.
- As we work on our Language B, Spanish, our classrooms and hallways will become more bilingual.
- Students are also given experiences with communication through technology and oral presentations using IPADS and classroom computers.
- Reading is promoted at home by reading logs or take-home books.
- Teachers are purposeful with their selection of non-fiction and fiction books with in their units of inquiry. Students are given opportunities to study various genre, literature studies, authors, and styles of writing.
- There are ample opportunities for shared reading and writing, along with oral and/or written self-reflection.
- Teachers do model writing, reading strategies, listening skills, and appropriate speech.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Lincoln teachers will continue to participate in professional development to enhance language development of our students. This will allow for teachers to stay informed of best practices in language instruction and share these ideas with each other. Staff members will also collaborate with our media specialist to continue on the development of needed resources in our library for language development and the units of inquiry.

This language policy will continue to be a working document and will be reviewed and revised yearly. The Head of School, PYP coordinator, teachers, and parents are involved in the development of this language policy. The Head of School and PYP coordinator will help with the implementation of the language policy and for the professional development regarding the instruction of language. Teachers will be responsible to communicate the language policy to students and parents. The PYP coordinator and teachers will collaborate on best practices and continued assessment of student's growth in language development.