



LANGUAGE POLICY

Rationale:

"It is through language that we access our own and others' culture." Kambrya College's Language Policy is a whole-school document.

Statement of Philosophy

Kambrya College recognizes that language acquisition and proficiency is instrumental to the success of our students, as scholars, as community members and eventually as independent adults. Teaching and learning language at Kambrya College is integrated within all subject areas. We recognize that language is fundamental to learning and is the foundation of learning throughout the curriculum. All teachers at Kambrya College are language teachers.

The Language Policy involves all strands of Language from the IBO's MYP Language Scope and Sequence Document and from the VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards) Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

IB Learner Profile

In line with the IB the school aims that students will develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to be:

Inquirers: They inquire into language use and language structures. They use language to acquire information and to make sense of the world around them. **They develop a metalanguage for discussing their own and others' language.**

Thinkers: They are able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly. **Both orally and in written forms.**

Communicators: They are competent users of oral and written language forms in a variety of situations. They listen attentively and pay attention to detail. They speak confidently and clearly. They read fluently with good comprehension. They write clearly, concisely, accurately in a style appropriate for the purpose.

Risk takers: They are willing to attempt to read, write or speak in situations where they may not feel totally confident.

Knowledgeable: They have acquired the vocabulary and understanding to discuss language structures, text forms and literary styles.

Principled: They are aware that language is powerful that it can have a profound effect and it must therefore be used responsibly.

Caring: They show care in their use of language and are aware of how the use of language can affect others.

Open minded: They respect differences and similarities between languages, dialects and personal communication styles. They understand that language can be used as an expression of bias.

Balanced: They can express themselves orally as well as in writing and find a balance between listening and speaking in communicating with others. They read a variety of written material and are able to write for different purposes and audiences.

Reflective: They reflect on their language development and consciously work at improving their language proficiency.



LANGUAGE POLICY (continued)

Language as a Mark of Respect and Inclusion

Kambrya College is mindful of the power of language and words, and acknowledges that *what* individuals say, and *how* individuals say things, directly affects people's perceptions of our intentions, goals and values. As an IB Candidate School, we therefore encourage all Kambrya College community members to develop positive means of communication that foster a sense of community. For this reason, students and teachers should, when in a group, use a language which is common to all members of the group. This also means avoiding the use of words that degrade or alienate others.

Language of Instruction

As the language of instruction, English is taught as a Language A to all students in grades 7-10. These courses follow the aims and objectives for MYP Language A.

Kambrya College has no official preference for a specific variety of English, be it American, British, or any other form. Students may choose any variety of standard English which they prefer. Students are expected to use one variety of English consistently within each document they produce.

The rationale of the English program is as follows:

It is essential students develop language and communication skills in order to be successful in a complex global society. The English/Language program lies at the heart of Kambrya College's vision, in which students become independent, critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and responsible citizens. The program will encourage students to love literature and to understand that language is fundamental to learning. English is both an essential tool for learning and a medium for communicating meaning, intent, analysis and emotion. The English/Language program will include and challenge students, preparing them for the next stage of their education; this demands mastery of the full range of language skills.

ESL Program

Kambrya College provides English as a Second Language (ESL) program to serve students whose English skills limit full access to mainstream instruction. This is a free service. Applicants to the school may be considered for the ESL program. An applicant can be referred for ESL support if English is not the preferred language in the home.

If a student is admitted into the ESL program, the parents are first notified before the student begins receiving ESL services. Progress Reports are distributed twice a year. These are narrative comments offering praise as well as guidance for further improving language skills. ESL teachers schedule Parent Teacher conferences and/or Round Table Conferences as and when necessary. Interpreters are available as required

Mother Tongue

Mother tongue development is supported directly for students whose first language is English. For students with other mother tongues, language development is encouraged when reading with parents, when discussing work at home, when reflecting on work at home etc. Kambrya College works with such families to find appropriate resources, including teachers, literature and cultural experiences. Families are encouraged to arrange for mother tongue instruction with an outside tutor. For other needs, families are welcome to contact the school, which will consider each request on a case-by-case basis.



LANGUAGE POLICY (continued)

Language B

To provide for the development of language skills in all students, regardless of prior experience, Kambrya College provides opportunities for students across the school to undertake Language B studies in both Japanese and German. Classes focus on the major language areas of reading, listening, speaking and writing, and all students are provided with appropriate opportunities to improve their abilities in each area.

Teaching and Learning

It is essential students develop language and communication skills in order to be successful in a complex global society. The English/Language program lies at the heart of Kambrya College's vision, in which students become independent, critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and responsible citizens. The program encourages students to love literature and to understand that language is fundamental to learning. English is both an essential tool for learning and a medium for communicating meaning, intent, analysis and emotion. The Language program includes and challenges students, preparing them for the next stage of their education; this demands mastery of the full range of language skills.

At Kambrya College there is a transdisciplinary approach to teaching language. Language can not be isolated from other curricula, but instead is incorporated in an authentic and appropriate way. Language is fundamental to all learning; learning about language (metacognition) as well as learning language and about literature.

Teachers employ a variety of developmentally appropriate and differentiated teaching strategies, providing a balanced literacy program which is student centered and optimizes learning. Technology is used in the classroom as appropriate, when its use will assist in enhancing student learning.

In addition to classroom libraries and reading schemes, children's literature from the developing school library extends and supplements classroom resources. The aim is to help students become independent and committed readers, using a great variety of authentic contexts in order to develop literacy skills and to engage critically in literature. The school library includes fiction and non-fiction sections.

Assessment

Teachers regularly use diagnostic, formative and summative assessment to assist in the teaching and learning of languages. Assessment takes place in accordance with the Kambrya College Assessment for, of and as Learning document, along with the MYP and VELS guidelines. Student work in year 7-10 is assessed using rubrics aligned with the official MYP subject specific criteria. Students and parents are kept informed of student progress through informal parent teacher meetings, scheduled Parent / Teacher consultations, Student Led Conferences and Portfolios.

This policy was last ratified by College Council in **February 2008**